

# *History of Randolph*

By REVEREND  
HARRY R. BUTMAN











**Bricks from the quarry furnished the granite for the Turner Library in 1874. Photo courtesy of Randolph Historical Commission**



# For Reference

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# History of Randolph, Massachusetts

*From Earliest Settlement to the Present Time . . . . .*

*Voted and Authorized by the Town of Randolph, 1944*

*Compiled and Written by Reverend Harry R. Butman*







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# History of Randolph

By REV. HARRY R. BUTMAN

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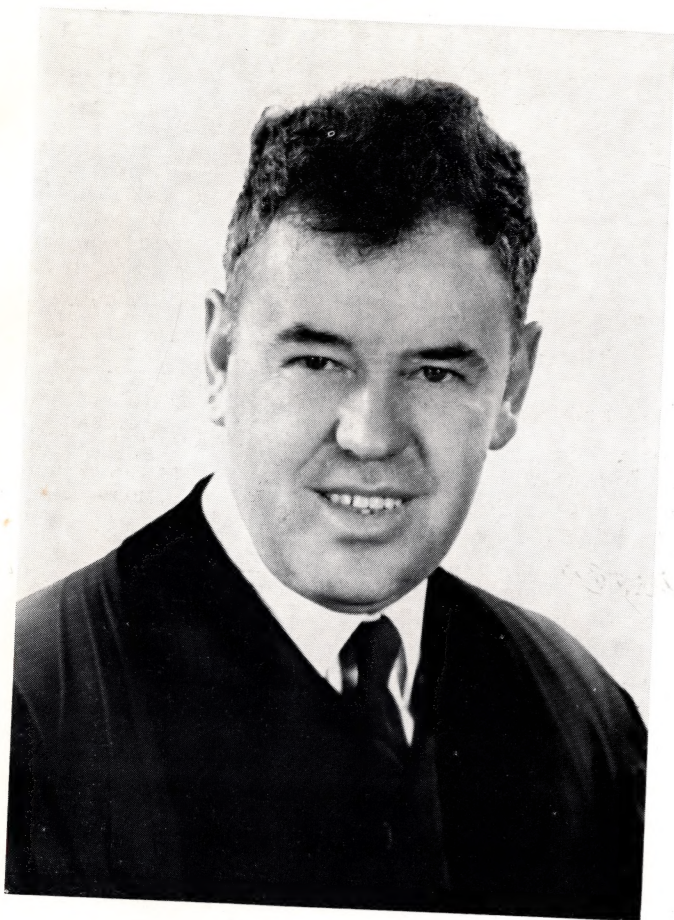
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Photos by Bob Isaac and Bob Gaffney.

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*Harry R. Butman*

Rev. Harry R. Butman was born in Beverly, Mass. He was educated at Beverly High School, Bangor Theological Seminary, and the University of Vermont. He was ordained at Edgartown, Mass., in 1932, and served the First Congregational Church of Randolph from 1937 to 1945. He is at present pastor of the Allin Congregational Church of Dedham. His other literary work has been in the field of juvenile fiction and theological essays.





## Foreword

Interest in Randolph history was stimulated by the Sesquicentennial in 1943, and it was then realized that no complete history of the town had ever been written. Previous publications of an historical nature were designedly of limited scope. Dr. Ebenezer Alden's "Sketches" are invaluable in their views of "ancient Cochato", and the "Proceedings of the 150th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church" in 1881, give a very complete account of the ecclesiastical history of the early days of Randolph. The "Proceedings of the Centennial Celebration" in 1893, while wider in scope, do not cover the subject systematically, but concentrate largely on the celebration proper. The story of Randolph written by A. E. Sproul in D. Hamilton Hurd's History of Norfolk County, published in 1884, not only touches on the church history of the South Precinct, but gives much interesting information concerning the boot and shoe industry in Randolph. This account, however, is too brief in length to cover the earliest days of the town thoroughly and, of course, it does not touch upon the last half century and more.

It was the opinion of the selectmen that the town deserved a volume on its origin and growth, and accordingly the town fathers, Mr. Charles F. Blakely, Mr. Theodore S. Luddington, and Mr. Ralph H. Hutchinson, conferred with the writer on the possibility of preparing such a volume. The conference was favorable, and a vote of the town in 1944 authorized the project. The present Board of Selectmen which is supervising the publicity of this History, and who have authorized the epilogue, consists of Orrin B. White, Roger A. Lutz and Ralph H. Hutchinson. While the bulk of the work was done during the following year, war-time shortage of paper caused a delay in publication. The situation eased somewhat in the following year, but publishing costs were still very high. The writer had then removed to Dedham, and opportunity for work on the final details did not present itself. In the spring of 1949, however, it was decided that publication costs would not go down in the near future, and that the history had best be given to the public without further delay. The publication of history is a slow business at best. It is interesting to note that even in the quiet times of a generation ago there was a lapse of four years between proposal and publication. (1893-1897.)



This volume was not written by a professional historian, and its defects are all too clear to the author's eyes. He feels as old Dr. Alden felt, when he contemplated the rich resources of history and legend in old Randolph, and said, "The full history of Randolph will never be written." One is acutely conscious, as he reads the town clerk's books, of the skeletal nature of the town records. Here are inscribed the bare facts of corporate life — the officers, the expenditures, the motions. Once in many weary pages there is a flash of color, a dramatic touch, a tell-tale bit of bias in the recording of controversy, but for the most part, the pulse of living men is faintly felt. The formal records are, to the surging, many-stranded reality that was actual life in Randolph of yesterday, as a slender polished cane of oak is to the deep-rooted, sky-reaching, and storm-defying tree.

In this work the origins of Randolph are treated more systematically and with greater detail than in any other published account. The documents in the state archives have been carefully examined, for example, in order to get a precise narration of the separation from Braintree and the call of the first town meeting. This seemingly simple account was written only after many documents and scraps of paper, several of them undated, were collated into a coherent narrative. In this book, further, an attempt has been made to give enough details to save the history from the aridity of generalization. Possibly this emphasis has been over-done. The last chapter, dealing with the Sesquicentennial, is disproportionately long, and stuffed with names.

This disproportion is deliberate. In the first place, it was thought by the writer that a book which contained the names of many citizens would be far more likely to be read by those citizens than it would if it contained a merely factual account, unredeemed by the magic of names. And the writer is certain that the higher possibility of sales inherent in the human craving to see one's name in print will not be displeasing to the selectmen, upon whom the responsibility of publication rests. But there is another, and more strictly historical reason for such a repetitious and detailed chapter. Many old records are distressingly meager in minor matters of human interest. One finds it difficult to recapture the life of yesterday because the austere chroniclers were above mentioning trivial things. I have always wondered what they had to eat at the ordination dinner of Rev. Elisha Eaton, first pastor, 218 years ago. We might learn something about the life of our ancestors if we knew the kind of table they set. Has not the Pilgrims' first feast always fascinated us? Bradford was a really wise historian.

The writer's sources, in addition to the volumes mentioned in the first paragraph, are the "History of Braintree", the state archives, and the parish records of the First Congregational Church. The chief source was, of course, the town clerk's books. The selectmen, together with their clerk and the town clerk, have been most cooperative, as have the librarians at the Turner Library.

The task has been a labor of love, and the writer is proud to have had the privilege of being the first to chart the long course of this fine old New England town. He hopes that the future historian, writing at the two hundredth anniversary in 1993, will have the happy task of tracing two full centuries of ever-increasing growth in townhood.



## *Before Incorporation*

**W**HILE the 150th Anniversary of the town of Randolph was celebrated in 1943, the beginnings of the town date back far before 1793, the year of incorporation. At the time of the Sesquicentennial, the community was at least 216 years old, and, while it is impossible to be precise in such matters, there is good reason to believe that at least 225 years of pioneer, precinct, and town history preceded the formal celebration of the 150th birthday. While this community received recognition from the General Court as a separate incorporated town in 1793, sixty-five years prior to that time an organized group lived in this neighborhood.(1) We have no exact historical data by which to establish the date of the first civic assembly here, but the remaining half of the title page of the oldest records — the first volume of precinct records of the Congregational Church — informs us that on February 3, 1727-8 (2) a certain Belcher began to keep the South Precinct annals. Since books of this sort are not purchased without instruction from some organization, it is probable that the meeting which gave the order for the purchase was even earlier. We can only guess at the date of that earlier meeting, for a hand has destroyed the first two leaves of our records, but on January 21, 1728-29, a public gathering was held in the meeting house, a gathering we can definitely call our first meeting of which we have written knowledge. Our town is older than we commonly think.

We must not suppose, however, that such a gathering appeared suddenly out of nowhere, or grew without roots. Braintree, our parent town, since separation from Boston in 1640, had continued to grow. In 1708, Braintree was separated into north and south precincts, and the process of growth continued. In the course of years, the tide of emigration spread southward and westward from Braintree, and by 1727 enough people had settled in the area which is now Randolph, to present a petition to the General Court, praying that they might be "a seperate Society and Intire Precinct by ourselves". The petition read:

*To the Honourable William Dummer Esq Lieut Governor and Commander in Cheif, in and over his Majesty's Province of the Mafsachufett Bay in New England. And to the Honourable Councel and Representatives in General Court Afsembled Nov. 22, 1727.*

*The Petition of Diverfe of the Inhabitants refiding in the South End of the South Precinct in Braintry, in behalf of themselves, and of their Neighbours. South Braintry, December 28, 1727. Humbly Sheweth*

*That your Petitioners, and others of our Neighbours who join with us, are labouring under difficult and distreffeing circumstances, in regard of the remoteness of our Habitations from the Publick worship of God for fveral of us dwell at Such a distance therefrom, that we, with our families are forced to travaille upon the Sabbath five miles, Some Six, Some Seven miles to a Meeting to hear the word preached, upon with confideration, That it might be lefs labour and more eafie for us, we have been at the charge to Erect a Convenient House, and have fet it in fuch a Suitable place (tho' not yet finifhed) as may very well accommodate the Neighborhood, for Such a Service. Alfo we have chosen to perfons to feek for a Suitable Minifter to preach with us this Winter, this was done with the Advice and confent of our prefent Minifter Mr. Niles, who has promifed his affiftance in this good work.*

*And to Encourage us in our proceeding, the whole South Precinct have unanimously voted, That we of the South-end of the South Precinct in Braintry (confifting of above 40 families) should be a Seperate Society and an intire Precinct by our Selves, as appears by a Copy of their Vote herewith prefented with the bound, thereof therein Recorded, according to our Defire and mutual Agreement with them as aforesaid.*

*Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that this Honourable Court at their prefent Sefion would pleafe so far to confider of our prefent difficult circumstances as to varifie and confirm the abovementioned vote and grant that we may be a Precinct*



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*by our Selves that fo we may go on with our work with more alacrity and afsiduity And that we may have and Enjoy all Such immunities, privileges, and powers, as generally other Precincts do by Law Enjoy. Thus hoping for your Honours acception, approbation and confirmation of the aforefaid we remain and Subscribe our Selves your humble Servants:*

John Niles	Gideon Thayer
Samuel Pain	John Allen
Benjamin Hayward	Samuel Bagley
Thomas Fenton	Will <sup>m</sup> Nightingal, Sen <sup>r</sup>

cinct, held December 18, 1727, in which the "remote Brethren" asked that they be set off and a line be run between the old South Precinct, and the "New South Precinct", as the new parish was to be called. The petition was endorsed by the House of Representatives, January 5, 1727, and the signature of Governor Dummer affixed. The town of Braintree was thereof divided into the North Precinct, now Quincy; the Middle Precinct (formerly the South Precinct), now Braintree, and the South Precinct, colloquially known as the "New South Precinct", which now forms the towns of Randolph and



NORTH MAIN STREET FROM THE SQUARE, PERHAPS IN LATE 1860'S.

John French	James Pennimann
Thomas Wales	Samuel Speer
William Linfield	Moses Curtis
David Eames	Jonathon Hayden
Joseph Wales	Ebenezer Copeland
James Bagley	Samuel Bass
David Niles	Alexander French
Ebenezer Niles	William Nightingal, Jun <sup>r</sup>
John Nightingal	Nathan <sup>l</sup> Belcher
John Smith	Daniel Thayer

This petition, signed by twenty-eight residents, had been preceded by a meeting of the South Pre-

Holbrook. The new precinct was also called "Cochato" and "Scadding", names doubtless of Indian origin.(3)

As to the first settler there is no certain evidence. The tract of land which lies between the present (1944) Congregational and Baptist Churches was first granted to an Edward Bendall in July 1641, but there is no contemporary evidence of immediate settlement. The man who made the first clearing, planted the first crops, established the first permanent home, must forever remain a mystery.(4) In 1708-1711 a large tract was subdivided, lots were



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assigned and deeds granted, and somewhere in this period permanent homes began to be established.(5) As early as 1710 one sawmill, or perhaps two, had been erected. Suffolk deeds (the county was not Norfolk until 1793) show the names of some of these early settlers. The homes and farms were for the most part on the "Old Bridgewater Path" which is now North Street and South Main Street. Other homes were raised on paths which are now known as Mill Street, and West and Warren Streets.

We may raise the question, however, as to the relatively late dates of settlement and incorporation,

be a much older town. The village was long established as a dwelling place when it held its first legal birthday as a town.

Even when this fact of the time-lag between settlement and incorporation has been taken into account, however, the pioneer period of Randolph is rather late. Almost a century before Thomas Hooker emigrated to the Connecticut Valley, Roger Williams had long since founded Providence; there were settlements in Vermont, New Hampshire and Western Massachusetts, and the early explorations and settlements in parts of Maine were ancient



NORTH MAIN STREET IN 1951, SOME 90 YEARS LATER, FROM APPROXIMATELY SAME SPOT AS IN OPPOSITE PICTURE.

for Plymouth was over a century old at the time of our first meeting, and many towns in this region have celebrated their tercentenaries. To this question a number of answers may be made. In the first place, Randolph's relative youth as an incorporated town results from the fact that, as had been pointed out, the village was under precinct form of rule for sixty-five years before becoming a town, though efforts were made as early as 1729 to get up a petition to the General Court to be a separate township. Had this attempt succeeded, we would

when the South Precinct was set off. The Church established here was the 180th of the Established Order to be gathered.

This lateness seems the more strange when we realize that our territory lies midway between Bay Colony on the north and Plymouth Colony on the south, and hence might logically have been the first ground to be farmed when these settlements overflowed. But in this very fact of a middle position lies a reason for the slow development of this area. The grants and charters issued in England to the



two colonies were very vague and indefinite as to boundaries, and in this connection it will be remembered that the Pilgrims set out to settle the "northern parts of Virginia". The early history of Weymouth reflects some of the struggle that went on over jurisdiction of this territory. In 1634 the General Court decided that Boston was cramped, and voted that "Boston shall have enlargement at Mount Wollaston" which then included Braintree. This "enlargement" was a flexible term and was the source of much litigation until, in 1708, the proprietors of Braintree purchased the alleged rights of Boston for the huge sum of seven hundred pounds.

With this sort of background it is not strange that settlers were reluctant to come into territory where titles were uncertain. No man was anxious to come into a virgin forest, face the danger of bear, wolf, cold, famine and pestilence, only to find some years later, when he had made the land valuable, that a new purchaser with a sound title, could evict him from the plot torn from the wilderness with sweat and sacrifice. Further, the land itself was not particularly inviting, as evidenced by its title, "the Waste or Common Lands". Water for power and irrigation was not too plentiful.<sup>(6)</sup> It is also probable that the Blue Hills stood as an economic, as well as a physical barrier between the village and Boston. It was not easy to reach the market with the surplus of the field. It is not strange, therefore, taking the legal and economic factors into consideration, that the town was somewhat late in settlement and incorporation.

It might here be noted that no tales or documents dealing with the Indians appear in Randolph records. This is in part due to the fact that in 1616 and 1617 an epidemic of an unknown nature so ravaged the Indians of the eastern part of Massachusetts that a bare handful of warriors were left of the estimated three thousand that originally roamed the woods. It is due to this pestilence that the Pilgrims suffered little in comparison with Deerfield, Haverhill, and settlements to the north and west. When in 1675-1676, King Phillip of the Wampanoags led his tribesmen against the colonists, the natives were so savagely crushed that they never again were a threat to the settlers. The life of the pioneer, when Randolph was the southern edge of civilization, was lonely and hard, but no family ever awakened trembling at the sound of the war-whoop.

Despite our lack of information as to the earliest

settler, or the nature of the first precinct meeting, we are not entirely lacking in material concerning the primitive life in our village. The Rev. Samuel Niles, pastor of the second Church in Braintree, who began his ministry there in 1711, kept very accurate records, from which we draw interesting items concerning the period which antedates our own written history. He owned land bordering on the northerly part of present-day Randolph, and of it he writes in his diary, "April 12, 1712 I first began my farm in Cochato, alias Beersheba and I carried hay seed hither April 8, 1712."<sup>(7)</sup> Biblical students will recognize in the facetious analogy an intimation that his farm was on the southern edge of civilization. This same farm, be it noted, played an important part in shaping the boundary when the New South Precinct was set off in 1727, and more than six-score years later, the petitioners for incorporation referred resentfully to Mr. Niles' influence in the determination of the line. We have also a paradoxical sort of evidence of life in this territory before the formation of a precinct in the records of the ancient burying grounds on North Street, now the Central Cemetery. The northernmost corner of this is the oldest portion, and Dr. Ebenezer Alden is authority for the statement that burials were made there in 1716.<sup>(8)</sup> This plot of land was given to the inhabitants of the neighborhood by James Bagley, one of the earliest settlers. The stones are for the most part crumbled, sunken, and illegible, but the stone of a Mrs. Benjamin Niles, who died prior to 1717, is still to be read (1943). From 1717 to 1727 there were one hundred burials in this ground.

Evidence of the maturity of the village at the time of the petition in 1727 is furnished by the fact that the petitioners cite that "we with our families are forced to travaille upon the Sabbath five miles, Some Six, Some Seven miles to Meeting". It is very probable that the tide of settlement moved southward slowly, as the pioneers were unlikely to desire a dwelling place far from help in winter, in time of disaster, or in case of sickness. It is also not unreasonable to suppose that the hewing of arable land from the forest was a process so slow that a number of years must have elapsed before the southern line of the settlement had moved seven long miles from the site of the second meeting house in Braintree.

It may now be necessary to explain to those not acquainted with early New England history that for



many years Church and State were practically identical. The early colonizers were strongly influenced by the idea of a theocracy, that is, a government of God, in which the clergy and magistrates were merely His agents. In Massachusetts the Congregational Churches, "the Established Order", were almost coterminous with the state. In 1631 the General Court ruled that "for the time to come none should be admitted to the freedom of the body politic but such as were Church members". This edict disfranchised all but Congregationalists, and in 1662 a General Synod of the Congregational Churches permitted a sort of nominal Church membership, called "the Half-Way Covenant," wherein persons who had been baptized in infancy, who were not scandalous in their manner of living, and who understood Christian doctrine might become members, and thus gain political privilege. Not until 1832 could a non-Congregationalist vote in Connecticut.

Here in Randolph we have no secular books of records until 1793, the year of incorporation. The early history of this town is the secular side of the Congregational Church, and the precinct books are our only records. A complete description of the "precinct" of yesterday would call for over-much definition. It is enough to say that the ancient "precinct", or "parish" was established for the purpose of maintaining public worship, while a "town" is a civil and political corporation, founded for municipal purposes. In Randolph's early days of precinct government, the secular and religious functions of government were carried on by the same group.(9) The minister was supported by taxes, the school committee was chosen by the parish, and the whole political as well as fiscal policy, was carried on by this group of Church members. This mode of government was too narrow, as we shall subsequently see, but for a long time after the formalities were dissolved a close relationship was kept between Church and town, as is shown by the fact that when the town finally became independent, the town meetings were still held in "Rev. Mr. Strong's Meeting House".

It is grievous to report that our earliest records are in poor condition, as previously intimated. Not only have the first two pages been cut out with much care and a keen knife, but also the pages which record 1731 and 1733. The loss of 1731 page is unfortunate, for it is logical to assume that it tells

of the organization or "gathering" of the Congregational Church, and the installation of the first Pastor, Rev. Elisha Eaton. At some time the book fell into careless hands, for it was used as a copy book by a young boy who scrawled his name over many pages, and did exercises in penmanship over the writings of the old clerks. Rowdy ballads, bills of sale, and crude sketches of houses(10) disfigure other pages. At some time previous to 1857 Dr. Alden rescued this valuable volume, and bound it in a tough legal parchment. His memoirs do not tell us of this most fortunate recovery.

The title page is torn in half and the remainder reads:

.... *Belcher His Book*  
.... *To The Southermost*  
.... *Braintry*  
.... *Fabry the 3*  
.... 1727/8  
.... *outh precinct Book of Records*  
.... *Required the (acts) of said precinct.*

One must candidly note that our records were neither kept fully nor with imagination. "The records both of the Church and of the Precinct are exceedingly defective. There is no account of the births or deaths before 1800 in the books of either. The oldest record book of the Church is written in a hand almost illegible, and contains but few entries beyond the catalog of baptisms and admissions to membership. A complete history of the town is therefore impossible".(11) There is also lacking in these records something of the fullness of detail which marks the records of the town of Braintree. The entries are brief and prosaic. Perhaps as good a way as any to catch their flavor is to present in its entirety the second recorded precinct meeting. The first meeting recorded in our mutilated book is now beyond complete deciphering, but from Dr. Alden's sketches we learn that it was a routine request for an accounting of money spent the previous year.

*Brantry March ye 19th 1728 We the Inhabe-  
tence of the new South Presenct Orderly Asembled  
to Geather Haue Chosen John Niles Juner Modera-  
tor.*

*2nd Chose Iassac Newcomb Clark for the Year En-  
suing.*

*3 (ly) Voted that John Niles Juner and Benjamin  
Hayward and Thomas Wales Should be the  
Assers to Maik the Rate.*



- 4 (ly) Chose Thomas Wales Treasurer of . . . .
- 5 (ly) Voted to Rais Sixty Five Pounds for the Ministry
- 6 (ly) Voted that Moses Curtis and Joseph Wales Should be the Commity to Agree wth a Minister.
- 7 (ly) Voted to Rais Thirty Pounds to Pay the Minister for the Time Past And ten Pounds to Defray the Nesesary Charges for the Year Insuing.
- 8 (ly) Voted John Niles Juner Benjamin Hayward & Thomas Wales To be a Commity to Call Meetings for the Time To Come Untill Their Shall be others Chose.
- 9 (ly) Voted that the comity That Was Chose to agree With the Minister shall Enduver to Agree With The Reverand Mr. Morse of Stoton for The Year Insuing.

That the business chiefly deals with obtaining a pastor is due to the fact that according to early Massachusetts Law there could not be two Churches in one precinct; therefore, having received legal permission to establish a precinct, and lawfully use the meeting house which had already been erected, "tho not yet finished", the next step was to settle a clergyman. Four years were to elapse, however, before the Church was "gathered" in 1731 with its first minister, Rev. Elisha Eaton of Taunton.

One other interesting note may be recorded at this point. A vote passed October 14, 1729 reads:

*"Put to Vote by the Modderator Wheather we Would Do any (thing) toward finishing the School House & It Past In the Negittuie".*

Meeting-House and School house were closely identified in Randolph, as in all New England towns. It is very probable that the settlers erected the first school at the same time they built the first building for worship, some time in the spring of 1727. Both stood on the same hill top, symbolic of the Puritan love of learning and piety. The first building was never finished, but was replaced in 1738 by a more commodious structure paid for with 45 pounds publicly subscribed.

Apparently there was an element in the South Precinct which wished to break away from Braintree completely and become a separate township, and was only restrained by strong and steady opposition. At a meeting held May 15, 1729, it was

*Put to Vote. By the Modderater Whether Their Should be a comitte to Pertion (petition) to the Town for a township & It Past in the Negettuiue.*

The meeting went on to warn the parishioners that if they did not put their names on their contributions it should "Be counted for Srangers (strangers's) money." And then, at the end of the session, the independents made another motion.

*6 ly Put to Vote by the Moderator Whether we will Be a Township & It Past in the Negittuie.*

Uniform spelling was not one of our ancestor's virtues.

On the 19th of May another meeting was held, for the independents apparently would not rest with the rebuff. The curt record reads:

*Brantrey New South Precinct May the 19, 1729 We the Inhabitence hauing Assembled to Geather at a Precnt Meeting first We Chose John Niles Juner Modderator. Secondly Voted to Re-consider the Vote That was Past on the fifteenth Day of this Instant Which was then Put to Vote By the Modderator Whether We would Be A township (&?) that Past In the Negittuie. Thirdly It was Voted We Should Be a Township. fourthly It was Voted that we Should Chouse Committe to Petition to the Town for a Township.*

Three motions were then necessary to elect a committee of three men to approach Braintree on the matter, indicative of fierce parliamentary struggle.

The three men, John Niles, Thomas Wales, and Samuel Bass, carried out their task, and in the Braintree Town Records we find a record of a meeting held the very next day in which Braintree agreed that if the Great and General Court would set off the New South Precinct as a separate township, together with some Stoughton land and a part of the Hayward farm, that Braintree would permit the separation. On June 9, 1729 the South Precinct met and appointed a committee to petition the General Court for a separate township, provided they could get the Hayward farm and a "goar" of land from Stoughton. Their effort failed, or at least there is no record of its success, and the final outcome of the matter was to wait until sixty four years had passed by.

It may conceivably appear to some that this incident has been treated at undue length, but in point of fact it is immensely important as a picture of democracy in an early and vigorous form. These debates and meetings may seem unimportant from



the perspective of more than two hundred years, but actually they are the stuff out of which the American dream was woven. Let it be remembered that at this period no other territory in the world was practicing political freedom as were our own New England towns. Not since the days of Athens and the Greek city states did the common citizen have such power. While the rest of the Western world was largely living under feudal forms of government, the American people were experimenting with a form of political theory so long disused that it might well be called new.

This seating of political power in the hands of the precinct meeting was a strange and disturbing phenomena in that period. There were many conservatives who looked on it askance, for it was possible, thought these men, that if the commoners began to assert themselves in matter of local government, that in time they might come to question even the divine right of kings. And so of course they did. There is a sense in which the American Revolution grew out of the precinct meeting, — the town meeting. Too little attention has been paid in American popular history to the influence of the parish meeting upon the forms of secular government, and the reputations of men like Rev. Jonathan Mayhew of Boston, and Rev. John Wise of Ipswich, powerful, liberal-minded clerics, have unjustly fallen into relative oblivion.

We are fighting in these years a great war, in which the right of the individual against the state, the rights of the common man against his rulers, is being contested with infinite cost. It is well for us to remember the pit out of which we were digged; the rock from whence we were hewn. Out of the stained brown pages of our Randolph records and the minutes of many another New England town, we may produce the fierce democratic spirit which fought untiringly for free speech, the right of assembly, the right of worship. Limited though the franchise was in some cases, nevertheless, on these New England hilltops the fires of the freedom of the individual burned with a brightness not to be seen elsewhere in the world's history.

And there is another matter in which we may learn of our forefathers. In these days, when powerful economic and political forces seek to mould the minds of men to a drab, common pattern, in times when propaganda is a science so advanced that the individual is almost ashamed to express an

opinion counter to that held by the mass of men; we can profitably look back to the sturdy independence of our forebears in this town. We may smile a little when we find it gravely noted, that, after the precinct had voted some minor changes "Samuel Payn only Enters his Desent against the Doing of the sd work". But Samuel Payn stands in a great tradition.

It is not necessary to recount in detail the history of our town from its beginnings to the time of incorporation. The Records of the First Congregational Parish carry this information which is of value only to the scholar. How the assessors "Preambulated" the parish, every now and again, to see that the ancient landmarks were still in place, a custom still observed in some New England towns; how they safeguarded their property — "Voted that If any Person Shall Kindel a fire within ten rod of the meeting house he shall forfeit ten shillings"; how they hated to be constables, and paid their fines rather than serve; how they took charge of details which are now meaningless to us — "Voted that Benjamin Porter shall take care of the Precincts Burieng Cloath", — how they conducted their legal affairs with no lawyer "Voted that Deacon Samuel Bass get a law book for the precinct"; how they appointed committees to provide a "School Marster", how they struggled with the problem of Sabbath singing, whether it should be done old style of "lining off", or the new style, by "rule" — all these matters are but of limited interest.

There are two entries that are of general interest. For a long time it had been the custom for the constables to summon the precinct meeting "in his Majesties' Name". It is interesting to note that the meeting of March 8th, 1776, nearly a year after the battle of Concord and Lexington, and nine months after Bunker Hill, the summons were still "in his Majesties' Name". Whether this was Churchly conservatism, or New England reluctance to change, whether there was slight tinge of Toryism in Randolph, or whether the assessors simply did not know what else to write, must remain a matter of conjecture. Next year there was a change. The meeting was called "in the Government and People of this State". On January 19, 1778, the new summons is spread in full glory, "In the Name of the Government & People of the United States of America".



The other matter has a modern note. It is the problem of inflation which seems to be an integral part of the impact of war. We find a perfect example of the bad result of depreciated currency in our own records, results as graphic, if not as fantastic, as those which took place in Germany in 1923. The chief item of expense in the parish meetings was, of course, the minister's salary. The Rev. Moses Taft was called in 1752 at a salary of 60 pounds a year "old tenor". During the early years of the Revolution various minor increases were given to Mr. Taft. On January 19, 1778, we find the precinct meeting to consider a request that he be granted a sum additional to his salary "towards defraying his Necessary Expenses for the year past occasioned by the high Price of Provision & other necessities". We are surprised to find the additional sum granted to be one hundred pounds. But the inflationary tide had just begun to flow. This increase was insufficient before a year had gone. On November 2, 1778 Mr. Taft's "sallery" was made 450 pounds, and as economists are fond of reminding us, the inflationary process begun, is devastatingly rapid. The following November (1779) Mr. Taft was granted a salary of 1000 pounds, and even that sum was not noted until he was called before the meeting to see if it would be satisfactory. When the next November meeting rolled around — (apparently the precinct's traditional March meeting could not keep pace with the fall of currency) — we find the following series of votes passed:

*Voted to Give Mr. Taft Twenty two hundred pounds for the two years past. . .*

*Voted to pay Mr. Taft in produce upon a proviso We Can agree with him upon a price*

*Voted to Reconsider the Last Vote that was past*

*Voted to Allow Mr. Taft Seventy pounds in hard Money for the present year's Sallery.*

Here is excellent material for those interested in the intricate relationship of money and purchasing power. In these motions we see debased currency so low that a relapse to the primitive form of barter payment is considered. Then the vote is made to pay him in actual coin, which had kept its worth, and this scant seventy pounds was the equivalent of more than a thousand pounds of Continental Currency. An interesting conjecture may here be raised as to whether or not the South Precinct did some profitable speculation. In November, 1781, it was voted "That the Treasurer received the old Con-

tinental currency". Students of American history will recall that Alexander Hamilton made a long and successful fight to have this paper money, issued to the Revolutionary Army, redeemed at face value. Unfortunately, however, most of the veterans had sold their paper pay for very small sums in gold and silver to shrewd bankers and speculators; and they, not the soldiers, reaped the benefit when the Federal Government finally honored its obligations. We do not know if the South Precinct made money thus, for careful search reveals no record of any such gain, but it is one of the "ifs" of history that tantalize a narrator.

Like the political conflict over a separate township which we treated above at length, this economic matter, has more than parochial implication. It is a local and specific example of a danger no nation can wholly avoid. There is no one of us today who does not face precisely the same danger as our ancestors met. We have forgotten that in 1933 the United States went off the gold standard; we do not care to think about the present size of our national debt, and of tomorrow's economic situation the layman dares venture no prophecies. We know that uncontrolled inflation has wiped out savings, and insurance holdings, and annuities in other countries; in our time it is well to remember that we are not immune to the perils that have beset other times and other lands.

It is impossible to resist one last illustration drawn from the experience of Mr. Taft. The reverend gentleman was very ill during these later days of his life, and it was necessary for the parish to exercise a watchful care over him. Thus, in 1780 we find the following entry:

34 ly Voted to give the Rev. Mr. Taft a Suit of cloaths.

35 ly Voted to Raise one Thousand pound and that ye Suit of Cloaths be bought with part or all of said Thousand pound.

Some indication of the desperate hard times of the post-Revolutionary War period here in Randolph is afforded by the fact that the salary of probably the best paid man in the community, was hardly more than enough, translated into terms of consumer goods, to buy a single suit of clothes!

Lest the complete lack of any mention of the Revolutionary War and the stirring events which lead to it be construed as an attack on the patriotism of our fathers, let it be remembered that at that time



we were still a part of Braintree, and that the larger political issues of the day fell under the scope of the town, rather than the precinct meeting. The Braintree records carry an entry made on September 2, 1765, in which a sharp protest against the Stamp Act was drafted at a town meeting, and forwarded to the representative in General Court. Like heat lightning on the horizon, these flashes of resistance presaged the coming storm. The acts of Parliament "by which our money is to be drawn

In 1773 the town was in correspondence with the Boston Committee; in the March meeting in 1774 the committee on Publick Affairs presented to the town a powerfully worded refusal to submit to unjust taxation, and in 1775 ugly feeling began to stir against "the Rev. Winslow & other members of the Ch'h of England". It is pleasant to report that solid men of the town stood fast against mob violence. The arming of townsmen went on, companies of Minute Men were organized, the citizens



NORTH MAIN STREET FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STEEPLE, AROUND 1860 - 1870.

from us without our consent" drew forth another stubborn protest in 1769. A peculiarly Puritan note ends the entry: The town decided to "address the Supreme Governor of the universe in a social as well as a more private manner" . . . and "Voted that the Selectmen be Desired to wait on the Ministers of the several congregations in this Town Requesting that they would keep Tuesday the Fourth Day of October next as a Day of Humiliation & Prayer". An evidence of the political unity underlying theological differences is found in the fact that all the "Dissenting Ministers" in Braintree complied with the request.

were called out to "guard the shores". On September 23, 1776, a document destined to immortality was spread on the records, the Declaration of Independence.

It is not the province of a historian of Randolph to go into great detail concerning the part played by Braintree in the Revolution. It is enough to say that the South Precinct played its honorable part. The liberal peppering of our town pages in later years with "ensigns, lieutenants, captains & colonels show that the men of Randolph did their full share". The meeting of March 10, 1785, for example, mentioned twenty-one names, including repetition. Of



these, sixteen bore military titles. It is possible that South Precinct was so free of Tories that the Braintree powder was transferred, according to Mrs. John Adams, "to a place of concealment more southern".

During the eighty years that elapsed between the clearing of the first farms and incorporation, a subtle but important change was going on in the village, a change which was but a part of the whole altering political climate of New England. This change was the slow breakdown of the authority of the Congregational Church — the Established Order. The same spirit of independence that led to the establishment of the United States during this period was also working toward a separation of Church and State. Many of the leading men in the colonies were Deists, that is, believers in God but not in any specifically Christian revelation and they opposed any form of State religion. It was this mood and temper that underlies the fact that while we call ourselves a Christian nation, there is no mention of the name of Christ in our Constitution. We are all familiar with the fact that the first amendment very specifically bars any encroachment of the Church upon the powers of the State.

South Precinct was not free from these tides of thought. No living man can put his finger on the moment when the Parish began to sink to a subordinate place in this village, but at some moment, forever lost to the historian, the scales of authority began to tip. The former relationship still stood, but the reality was draining out of it. In addition to the general temper of the times, cited above, new religious societies were being formed. The severity of the Puritans of Bay Colony in banishing Quakers and Baptists could not keep back the march of religious freedom. On August 24, 1780, a Baptist Church was gathered here with thirty nine members. The Precinct took no official notice of this society, but the inevitable friction found an expression in a Precinct vote passed March 4, 1790, that a committee should have "discretionary power to settle ye Dispute between the parish & Baptist Society".

Another small but significant straw in the wind of change is to be found in the call for a meeting, December 4, 1788. Previously the call had been for those "Qualified by law to vote in precinct affairs". This time, however, the summons is to those "qualified by Law to Vote in Town affairs". A new

political entity, the town, was about to step on our local stage, and this clause was its herald.

Indications of a growing dissatisfaction with relationship between Braintree and the South Precinct is to be found in a report submitted in April 1791 by Samuel Bass and Joseph White on the expenses of the parishes of the town. The report curtly pointed out that "the South Parish rec'd nothing for mending highways altho they are the youngest and roughest part of the town."

On Jan. 7, 1791 a petition, the original of which is now lost, was presented to the General Court, praying that the South Parish be set off as a separate town. The action initiated a legislative battle, for the town of Braintree was by no means anxious to lose the South Parish so soon after the loss of the North Parish, which was incorporated under the name of Quincy. On February 28, 1792 the Senate ordered the petitioners to notify the town of Braintree with an attested copy of their petition at least thirty days before the second Wednesday of General Court so that they could show cause against the petition. On March 15, the South Precinct elected a committee "to endeavor to effect a separation between this parish and Mr. Weld's parish".

A number of Braintree citizens made a mild remonstrance to the General Court on May 20th, urging that the petition be dismissed or withdrawn "as yr Honrs in your great wisdom shall see fit". Meanwhile a number of moderates in Braintree were making great efforts to effect a peaceable reconciliation of the differences. At a Braintree town meeting held June 4th, it was moved that alternate town meetings, and all "in between meetings" be held in the North and South Precincts "so long as the town shall remain as it is". This vote was endorsed by a group of subscribers from Braintree who were willing to "join with the gentlemen of the committee of the South Parish in a petition to the General Court, that this vote be established by an act of Court". The machinery of separation ground on, however, and in the archives is to be found a copy, dated June 25, 1792, of the old line which was established December 19, 1727 between Braintree and the proposed New South Parish. There is also a copy of the annual meeting of "the Middle Precinct, now the First Precinct of Braintree, as to the line between the middle and South Precincts". The copy is dated June 5, 1792.



Apparently the town of Braintree felt that there was no way of stopping the process of separation, and on June 15, 1792, the town unanimously voted to ask the General Court to set off and incorporate the South Parish agreeable to the petition presented to the Court on January 7. They then chose seven agents to support the petition.

A survey exists, which, though undated, might have been made at about this time. It reveals that the whole town of Braintree had "20,690 Acres of land including Roads, Rivers and Ponds". The South Precinct had "11,730 acres, including 100 acres of Pond".

In order to get something of the flavor of the controversy between Braintree and the South Precinct, it might be well to lay chronology aside for a little and to consider at some length two documents; the originals of which may be found in the State Archives. The first is an undated petition to the General Court from the people of the South Precinct. It is interesting enough to quote in its entirety.

*To the Hon ble Senate and the Hon ble House of Representatives in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of the Inhabitants of the South Precinct of Braintree most respectfully shews— That your Petitioners from long experience have found the inconvenience of being connected with other parts of the town of Braintree — As the town is very long and narrow; the Centre of said South Precinct is more than five miles distant from the middle precinct meeting house: which is the usual and most convenient place of holding town meetings, while the town remains in its present form: which makes it necessary that nearly one half of your Petitioners should travel five miles and upwards to attend every town meeting; or otherwise which is frequently the Case; they are obliged to submit to the Centre of the town's transacting the whole of the Business: which they do, as your Petitioners think, with a very Partial Eye to their own interests.*

*And as travelling is often very bad in March and April meetings, it is difficult, & many times impossible for Elderly & infirm people to improve the Privileges they might otherwise do; & which every free man wishes to enjoy. Many other disadvantages peculiar to your Petitioners' extreem situation in the town will be made more fully to appear should your Honor grant them a hearing.*

*And your Petitioners wish further to suggest, that the South Precinct aforesaid, in its present form, is very incommodious & irregular and was owing originally to a Cause, which now ceases to exist: viz: When the Division of the middle and South Precinct was first proposed, the Revd Mr. Niles being willing his own farm should lye within the limits of his own parish — opposed the South parish's going off unless he might be thus gratified: and as he was then a man of much influence, your Petitioners were obliged to relinquish said farms, or continue, very much to their disadvantage, a part of his parish — the former of the two evils — they submitted to. But circumstances relative to said farms are now far different: a considerable part of said Mr. Niles's farm is now owned by Residents in the South Precinct and the Proprietors of the other farms aforesaid, are desirous of improving the advantages they ought long since to have enjoyed, by joining the South Precinct — as they are much nearer to the meeting than their own. Your Petitioners wish, therefore, to be set off from the other parts of the town of Braintree, in connection with the proprietors of the aforesaid farms, as a separate town: and your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray:*

*In Senate — read and concurred — Jany 18th, 1792.*

It is interesting to contrast their petition for a separate township with the document of sixty-odd years before which had petitioned for a separate parish. In both cases the distance and difficulties of gathering at a central meeting place is presented as the paramount reason for separation, but whereas the earlier journeyings had been for a religious purpose, the later travelling was for a political purpose. The town meeting had displaced divine worship as the important public gathering. A further decline in the importance and power of the Congregational Church is shown by the fact that originally the division of the middle and south precincts were in large measure determined by the insistence of the Rev. Mr. Niles that his farm should remain in the middle precinct. An undated counter-petition from the inhabitants of Braintree is also of considerable interest. The Petition follows:

*"We the subscribers Inhabitants of the New North Precinct in Braintree being deeply impressed with the Disagreeable Situation of this once Respectable Town of Braintree a Town Which has Produced Some of the first Characters amongst man-*



kind and Even those Who have risen to Exalted Stations Amongst the Rulers of our Country. The Old North Precinct are already got off from us and incorporated into a Town by the Name of Quincy and our Brethren of the South Precinct are Now Petitioning the General Court to be set off and incorporated into a Town by Some other name, should the Prayer of their Petition be granted there will be but a small Part of their old Town of Braintree left to bare up the Name, it appears to us that the Reasons why our Brethren in the South Precinct are aiming to git off from us is that they Suppose the Number of Inhabitants in this Now north Precinct Will be greater than in the South Precinct and by that means they Will be Exposed to voted from them those privileges which they have a Just Right to. now to Ease the minds of our Brethren in that Respect We the Subscribers do hereby upon our Words and Honour Which in the Nature of the thing is the strongest obligation that We can lay our Selves under Engage that We will at All Times as far as we are able prevent their having Just Cause of Complaint in that Respect and We do hereby Declare that if they will Withdraw their Petition Which We think Will be to Their advantage as Well as ours and Equally so that We are Willing that the meetings Shall be held Alternately and that our Brethren of the Said South Precinct shall have Every advantage from the Suffrages of the People at Large if We Continue together Without Separation Which they shall have any Just Reason to Expect and at the same time that we may Experience the same benevolence from them and that We may continue together in Brotherly love and Unity is the sincear and hearty Wish of Us the Subscribers."

There is a great deal of common sense and political wisdom in this remonstrance. The men of Braintree who composed it appealed with great shrewdness to the inhabitants of the South Parish. Could any words have overcome the extreme difficulties set forth by the petitioners of the South Parish, this appeal might have succeeded, but the topographical problem was too great, and the mechanism of separation spinning too rapidly for any appeal, however reasonable, or well-intentioned, to be successful. This petition and counter-petition are of worth to us because they show the motivations of politically mature men. Each party, convinced of the rightness of its cause, yet refrained from heated

verbal battles and vituperation. Certainly the counter-petition just quoted is far superior in quality and tone to the angry remonstrance of December 20, 1792, in which a group of irate inhabitants of Braintree suggested to the Senate in curt language that the South Precinct petitioners have liberty to withdraw, that the petition be dismissed, and the subscribers be allowed to remain in Braintree. This remonstrance, however, was of no effect. The act of incorporation started through the Legislative channels February 19, 1793. It was read February 21, engrossed March 1, and at 4 o'clock of the same day received its second reading; was read in the Senate March 5 and declared law March 9, 1793. The Act of Incorporation follows:

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-three. An Act for incorporating the South Precinct of the Town of Braintree in the County of Suffolk into a separate Town by the name of Randolph.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the lands comprised within the South Precinct in Braintree, as the same is now bounded, with the inhabitants dwelling thereon, be, and they hereby are, incorporated into a town, by the name of Randolph; and the said town of Randolph is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities to which towns within this Commonwealth are, or may be, intitled, agreeably to the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid That the inhabitants of the said town of Randolph shall pay all the arrears of taxes which may have been assessed upon them by the town of Braintree, and shall support any poor person or persons who have heretofore been, or now are, inhabitants of that part of Braintree which is hereby incorporated, and are or may become chargeable, and who shall not have obtained a settlement elsewhere, when they may become chargeable; and such poor person or persons may be returned to the town of Randolph, in the same way and manner that paupers may, by law, be returned to the town or district to which they belong. And the inhabitants of the town of Randolph shall pay their proportion of all debts now due from the town of Braintree, and



shall be entitled to receive their proportion of all debts and moneys now due to the said town of Braintree; and also their proportionable part of all other property of the said town of Braintree, of what kind or description soever.

Provided always, That the lands belonging to the said town of Braintree, for the purpose of maintaining schools, shall be divided between the said town of Braintree and the said town of Randolph, in the same proportion as they were respectively assessed for the payment of the last State tax.

Provided, nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That any of the inhabitants now dwelling within the bounds of said town of Randolph, who have remonstrated against the division of the town of Braintree and who may be desirous of belonging to the said town of Braintree shall at any time within six months from the passing of this act, by returning their names to the Secretary's office, and signifying their desire of belonging to said Braintree, have that privilege, and shall, with their polls and estates belong to and be a part of said Braintree by paying their proportion of all taxes which shall have been laid on said Town of Randolph, previously to their thus returning their names, as they would by law have been holden to pay had they continued to be a part of the town of Randolph.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Samuel Niles, Esq., be and he is hereby authorized to issue his warrant directed to some principal inhabitant of the said town of Randolph, requiring him to warn and give notice to the inhabitants of the said town to assemble and meet, at

some suitable time and place, in the said town of Randolph, as soon as conveniently may be so choose all such Officers as towns are required to choose, at their annual town-meeting in the month of March or April, annually.

March 5th, 1793

It will be noted, however, that while the remonstrance of December 20 failed to stop the incorporation of Randolph, that it was probably responsible for an unusual and perhaps unique clause in the Act. This clause, which Judge Asa French declares to be extremely rare, provided that if any of the remonstrants against the division "who may be desirous of belonging to the said town of Braintree shall any time within six months from the passing of this Act, by returning their names to the Secretary's office and signifying their desire of belonging to said Braintree, shall have that privilege".

It would be interesting to know if any of the remonstrants took advantage of this extraordinary clause, for under its provisions, it would be quite possible for a Randolph inhabitant who lived as far south as the neighborhood of the Avon line, to be a legal voter in the town of Braintree. Judge French says that some paid taxes in Braintree for thirty years, though domiciled in Randolph.

Apparently unaware of the action of the General Court "the Free Holders and other inhabitants of the South Precinct of Braintree" assembled on the 11th of March, 1793, not realizing that they no longer legally existed as a distinct political unit. The next Precinct meeting contains in the heading "Norfolk ss and the Town of Randolph".

## Notes on Chapter One

(1) John V. Beal and Dr. Ebenezer Alden are authorities for the statement that the New South Precinct was set off March 13, 1726 (os). Their source cannot now be found.

(2) The practice of double-dating on early manuscripts may need a word of explanation. Although Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1582, the change was not accepted by England and her colonies until 1752. In old times the civil year began on March 25, but Pope Gregory changed it to January 1. Hence, during the period 1582 - 1752, important documents were double dated. The first date is the civil year; the second, the Gregorian year. In all such dates, the second figure is according to our present reckoning.

(3) John V. Beal assumes "Cochato" to be the name of a Sagamore or a branch of the Neponset Indians, but says that nothing is definitely known. The name is used now only of the brook between Randolph and Holbrook, which bears the somewhat pretentious title of Cochato River. William H. Woodman, an authority on old Randolph, says that the name Scadding is also mysterious.

(4) Dates of settlement published on a map issued at the time of the Braintree Tercentenary seem insufficiently documented to be accepted as authoritative.

(5) Detailed treatments of this obscure matter may be found in the Proceedings of the First Congregational Church, in the Anniversary volume published in 1881.



The Historical Discourse of Rev. J. C. Labaree (Pro. p. 11) and in Benjamin Dickerman's Historical Sketch of the Four Meeting Houses (Pro. pp. 59, 60) are good sources of information. So likewise is the material in John V. Beal's Oration in the Centennial Celebration pp. 29-32.

(6) When such a minor trickle as the brooklet which flows under North Main Street near the Boston School for the Deaf holds the imposing name of "The Norroway River" we have an indication of the scarcity of sizeable streams.

(7) See Historical Sketches of the Town of Randolph Before 1800, Dr. Ebenezer Alden, p. 5. These sketches have been copied from The Randolph Register by some person unknown to the writer, and are on file at the Turner Free Library. This is a fortunate thing, as the files of the short-lived Register for 1857-1858 are broken.

(8) Ibid. p. 7. It is interesting to note that according to a vote of June 8, 1840 a wall was to be built in "the burying ground at West Randolph, and all interfering 'relics' were to be removed".

(9) The precinct could not formulate doctrine or discipline erring members. This was the function of the spiritual organization, the "Church". At the present time the Congregational Church in Randolph has a dual government, in theory at least. The "Parish", the modern title of the old "precinct", supposedly cares for all financial matters and holds all property, while the Church is concerned solely with spiritual matters.

(10) The present writer thought for a little while, when examining one of these sketches, that he had found a likeness of the first meeting house, of which no representation was supposed to exist. The building was plain, without a steeple, and bore under it the name of Thomas Wales, one of the signers of the petition, and the first deacon of the Church. Unfortunately the edifice of the sketch has three stories and displays two chimneys, while thoroughly reliable tradition tells us that the first building was but two stories in height and had no provision for heating. Thus we cannot honestly assume that this clumsy drawing is a representation of the first public structure in our town.

(11) Alden. Sketches p. 4.





## *The Early Years-1793-1819*

THE first century of Randolph's history as a separate town falls in a period when New England was becoming of secondary importance. The center of population moved steadily south and west during this time, and New England declined in political significance. Further, there was a strong distrust on the part of the pioneers of the West and South-west toward the conservatism of New England. Too tenaciously did New England's ruling class cling to the doctrine of rule by "the rich, the wise, and the good". The crude, powerful democracy of the frontier set itself in opposition to this influence, and men like Andrew Jackson came to power as a result of the ensuing conflict.

Three wars were fought in this period. In only one of them, the Civil War, did New England play a prominent part. Even the War of 1812, in which New England had a vital stake, failed to arouse New England to action in company with the other states. The war was called "Mr. Madison's War", and the town records of Randolph bear no traces of it, although the tradition of the First Congregational Church tells of Dr. Jonathan Strong reading a message from the pulpit one Sabbath morning to the effect that the British were landing in force at Cohasset. Col. Barnabas Clark gathered 400 men in front of the meeting house at one o'clock, and the patriots marched off to the scene of dangers. The Mexican War was actually opposed by many New Englanders as an unjust invasion of a small nation. In commerce, New England held her own, especially in the fisheries and shipping, but even this latter supremacy was taken from her after 1850. With the broad acres of the West calling, the United States could not remain primarily a maritime nation, and New England, with her fine harbors and stony farms was not equipped to match the pace of the rest of the country. Yet we may take a measure of local pride in the fact that during this period Randolph was the leading shoe manufacturing community in the nation, surpassing even Lynn and Boston.

Our approach to local history will make no effort to link the doings of Randolph with the na-

tional scene. We will use a microscope rather than a telescope. In the following chapter we will make a highly detailed examination of the proceedings of a New England town over the course of a century. In this chapter we shall study the social patterns of a way of life long past but still of vital interest. We somewhat arbitrarily set the limits of this chapter in accordance with the scope of the first book of town records. From this time on our records are good, though not complete.(1)

We will examine the first town meeting rather carefully, as it set a political pattern which has not substantially changed in a century and a half. There is no one mode of living which we still hold more closely in common with our forefathers. Should an ancient inhabitant rise from his grave and visit our town meeting today (1943) he would not be long in orienting himself. The changes have not been great.

Although Samuel Niles was named in the act, James Niles, a justice of the peace, called the first town meeting. After citing the legislative act of incorporation, he somewhat pompously addresses Samuel Bass, Esq.; "You, Sir, pursuant to the said act, are required to warn and give notice to all the inhabitants of the said town of Randolph"(2), which Mr. Bass did, the assigned date being April 1, 1793. Dr. Ephraim Wales was the first moderator and Joseph White, Jr., Dr. Ebenezer Alden, and Micah White, Jr., were the first selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor.

We note the stated officers elected that year and for many years following because these posts show the nature and extent of government in those days. The fixed officers were: Constable, Collector (of taxes), Firewardens, Scalers of Wood, Surveyors of Lumber, Packer of Beef, Fence-Viewers, Tithingmen, Hogreeves, Field Drivers, Sealer of Leather, Assizer of Bread, School Committee, Surveyors of Highways, Selectmen.

Some of these words have gone out of common use and need an explanation. The "hogreeve" was an official whose duty it was to impound stray hogs. The word "reeve" is of ancient Anglo-Saxon



origin. The field drivers had a like duty toward stray cattle. The "assizer" of bread was one who fixed the standards of that commodity when sold in town. The office is of old standing being initiated by a statute of Henry the Third in 1267. The office of "tithingman" offers considerable perplexity as it occurs on our records. Most of us are familiar with the stern figure of tradition, equipped with a pole, tipped on one end with a squirrel's tail, with which to recall the wondering attention of girls and adults, and terminating on the other end with a knob

ilies, and out of that office came a functionary resembling a constable. But this purely secular interpretation is qualified by the fact that when the town passed resolutions in 1815, that the inhabitants of the town ought to go to Church somewhere on the Sabbath, and that they were free to "travail" for that purpose, the warrant for the meeting calls for instructions to be given to the tithingmen. It is possible that the office had both secular and religious functions. "Fence viewers" supervised the erection and maintenance of fences.



NORTH MAIN STREET FROM THE OLD ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH STEEPLE, ABOUT 1870.

to discipline boys. A vote of April 1, 1808 provides that the tithingmen "be furnished with suitable Canes or badges of office". Oddly enough, we have no record in the Church or Parish books of such an ecclesiastical figure. Yet when we became a town, and put aside such semi-religious offices, we find the post filled each year. Some measure of help is given us by old English law, in which a tithingman was the head of a local political subdivision of ten fam-

An increasingly important office was that of highway surveyor. As the town grew, and the farms began to produce a marketable surplus, the old saddle paths were no longer sufficient for carrying goods to market. Cart paths and roads began to be built. The records of this period are filled with references to the business of getting roads built to the outlying farms, and the chief means of financing these improvements was to let the farmers work



out their taxes on the roads. In 1779 we find an entry, "Voted that a Pole (poll) should be taxed half a day's work on the highways". Wages were not high. A vote of 1802 set 12½ cents an hour as the rate of pay. And there was a limit set in 1804 to the number of days' work that could be put on a road. Labor was plentiful and dollars few, and the town fathers had no wish to see all taxes paid in road work. The town needed hard cash. The work was no sinecure, and shovel handles were not much used for leaning purposes. A vote of 1807 reads, "Voted to Impower all the highway servayers to Dock any man of his wages . . . if he don't do a full day's work." Sometimes districts petitioned for roads and were told that they could make them and the result could be counted on their taxes, subject to the condition mentioned above. Not all this labor was voluntary, for we have a complaint in 1815 from Major Stetson "and fifteen others who represent that they were called on by two or more surveyors to labour on the highways, and know not who to obey". In 1804 a winter tax was passed to be applied to clearing paths and removing snow. In 1809 the highway surveyors were empowered to keep their roads clear of snow, and many bitter squabbles arose over the matter of snow removal.

Apparently there was a running feud with the Boston and Taunton Turnpike Company over the illegal use of the Company's straight, smooth toll road (now High Street). In 1805 the town petitioned the General Court for permission to tear down the turnpike gate near Joseph Hunt's house, and the town "talked about . . . employing some person or persons to cut down said gate". In 1817 the Company objected to a town road joining the pike, but it was the town's opinion that the "said road is in no way calculated to injure the Taunton and South Boston Turnpike Company".

It may be of incidental interest to give the age of roads in town as far as can be determined.(3) Without doubt, North Street and South Main Street are the earliest. This road was first known as the "Old Beaten Path" and later as the Bridgewater Road. It was perhaps of Indian origin. As early as 1704 Samuel Sewall traversed this road. It was formally located in 1714. The road now comprising Oak and Canton Streets was laid out in 1721. It was known as the "Old Dorchester Path", and if its direction seems strange to modern eyes, let it be remembered that Canton was originally a

part of Dorchester. South Street (known to the oldest inhabitants in 1943 as "South Wagon Road") is also ancient, being laid out in 1731, the year of the settlement of the first pastor. North Main Street, with Orchard Street, was located in 1733 for a "more convenient passing to meeting". Mill Street, probably a very old path, was not formally located until 1748. Union Street is of surprisingly late origin, a roundabout bridle path by way of modern South and Center Streets originally connecting the east and west portions of Randolph.

In the meeting of 1798, there began the only controversy of importance between Randolph and the mother town, Braintree. A Committee was appointed to apply to Braintree for their rights in the "herring ware", and if refused, to take legal steps. Thus began a long and bitter battle, and year after year the town records bear witness to the stubbornness of both sides. Randolph won the first round when the lower court at Dedham found for the town, but when the matter was carried to the Supreme Court on a point of law, the decision was reversed, and a judgment with costs was awarded to Braintree, nine years after the action was first begun.(4)

The fishing rights in question were those in the Monatiquot River, the outlet of Great Pond. Each year the herring came up the river to spawn, and the "herrin' run" was eagerly awaited. In most New England towns, coastal and near-coastal, the right to take these fish was jealously guarded, and the time and manner of taking, and the number per family was carefully regulated. The long fight seems strange to us, but we must remember that in those days spring was known to country people as "starvin' time". The crops had not come in, the old supplies were running dangerously low, and there were no stores for convenient shopping. Nor was credit easily available. Many people were actually hungry in spring time, and the sweet pinkish fish, full of fine bones, of fresh or lightly smoked herring was an important item of diet. The folk of Randolph bitterly resented being cut off from a supply of free and tasty food.

The problem of national defense fell heavily on the town during this period, and some of the most involved passages in the records reflect the struggles to reach equitable solutions in matters of volunteering, drafting, and pay. A fundamental difficulty is found in the fact that while the Govern-



tree assumed this function during Randolph's precinct period. Yet even in Braintree the matter seems to be of late appearance. A cursory examination of the Braintree records reveals agitation in 1769-70 for the building of a "Work House", but whether this was to take care of the able-bodied poor, or a sort of house of correction is hard to determine exactly. In 1774 Braintree elected three overseers of the poor, as distinct from the selectmen, and a poor house was proposed at that time. Just before the incorporation of Randolph, in 1790-91, the Braintree selectmen "Warned out of Town" large numbers of laborers, Negroes, and "transient men".

The first reference to the poor in our records comes in 1795, when it was voted to "Let out the Poor to the lowest Bidder at the discretion of the Selectmen". A citizen would take a pauper, or paupers, for a small sum of board (paid by the town) and what little labor he could get from the poor under his roof. The back pages of the first book of records bear itemized accounts, beginning with 1803, of the cost to the town. In 1802 it was voted to carry out this same business "immediately after this present meeting". In 1806 the selectmen were instructed to "let out the poor as they think most for the interest of the town". In 1814 the phrase was added, "or at vendue Auction". The same year the town voted to petition the General Court to "establish another mode of supporting the Poor Debtors in the County-Gaol, rather than to oblige the Towns to pay the expense of boarding". A vote of July 29, 1811 said that as the present method of granting money for the relief of poor in other towns was not "proper", no more would be given in this manner.

The boarding cost was astonishingly low, even for that day. The account of the "town poor let out at the Vandue April 4th, 1808" has the sentence, "Zachery Thayer took Desire Crane at 24 cents per week". Other sums mentioned for weekly board were, .49, .59, .65, .37, .28. What made these meagre sums possible, was, of course, the amount of farm and domestic labor that could be wrung from the pitiful creatures. Yet even this cost seemed too great for our "close" town fathers. In the 1817 meeting a movement to buy or build a poor house was begun. A committee of 17 was appointed and they purchased a house, but no farm, for \$1200. Just what became of this house is not clear, for

on April 13, 1818, another committee was empowered to "Buy, Build or hire a house for the poor" at a cost not to exceed one thousand dollars. The total expense of building came to \$1780, but the town voted to pay it in 1819 as "it was as reasonable as could be expected". This house, of stone, still stands on South Street.(8)

The question of the treatment of the poor has been a perplexing one for the democracies, which not only desire to see the poor man have an adequate standard of living, but which also wish to keep from "pauperizing" him and lessening his pride as a free, potentially self-supporting man. This problem has never been satisfactorily solved.(9) Those who sigh for "the good old days" in this respect lack the imagination to see the hardships that are implicit in the words "to let the poor out to the lowest bidder". The living conditions of the paupers were incredibly meager, and to this there was added an intense spiritual suffering, for poverty, in the viewpoint of that day, was the sign of Divine displeasure, a genuine and bitter disgrace. What Whittier said in poetic sarcasm was the literal truth to the thrifty New Englanders:

"What has the gray-haired prisoner done?  
Has murder stained his hands with gore?  
Not so: his crime's a fouler one.  
God made the old man poor."

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Randolph's greatest literary figure, drew the inspiration for many of her short stories from traditions originating in this period, and the reader is impressed with an underlying note of Gothic horror and cruelty. Proud, shy, aged women being carried through the streets of the town in a cart to the poor house, or desperately fighting for the right to live in the Church gallery, give evidence that our fathers had a hard callous streak in their treatment of the poor.

One sample of this hardness may be seen in an entry made in 1815. Poverty had come to Josiah Copeland, and he, with his wife and daughter, were "let out" at public vendue. "Issac Tower (took) the woman for 37 cents, and Nathan Linfield the man for 40 cents. Mary Copeland to John King (?) Esq. until she is Eighteen years old for \$34." It is not strange that forty years later the South was to taunt the North with the charge that poor negroes were better treated in the South than poor whites were in the North. This ruthless breaking up of a family was little different in spirit than



the tear-producing sale of Uncle Tom. The towns were reluctant to support the pauper in dubious cases, and law-suits over the responsibility of a given pauper sprinkle the pages of Randolph records. The last century and a quarter has seen a great improvement in the matter of social conscience toward the economically dispossessed. The old way was cruel, niggardly and humiliating, and there were those whose pride was their food until near starvation forced them to apply for help.

Then, as now, complicated issues came up in town meeting. The March meeting of 1818 had trouble in filling the post of selectman. Jonathan Wales and Joseph Linfield both refused to serve if they had to act as overseers of the poor as well. Capt. Luther Thayer, elected, also declined to serve. Capt. Royal Turner was given 38 votes and declared elected. Then came one of those bewildering shifts which so often occur in Town Meeting. "Several being out of the meeting at the time protested against the choice. It was found after polling that 80 were against the choice. The Moderator then gave liberty to the town to offer their Votes for another person as Selectman in place of said Royal Turner. Thomas French had eighty one . . . Royal Turner had twenty one . . . John King Jun. Esq. and others protested against such proceedings". Capt. Turner and his friends pressed the fight, and in April we find a vote: "That Captain Royal Turner be considered Selectman and Assessor the year ensuing notwithstanding all objection as to the legality of his first choice". But the really interesting part of the whole affair is to be found in the call for the opening of the meeting, for, after the warrant was read, apparently apprehensive of the stormy session that loomed ahead, the clerk or the moderator "opened by reading . . . the Laws of the Commonwealth respecting Profane Swearing".

During this period property qualifications took the place of religious qualifications to vote. Paupers were disfranchised. The warrant for the meeting of 1797 set forth that a voter had to be male, "twen-

ty one years of age, resident in the said town for the space of one year next preceding, having a freehold estate within said town, of the annual income of three pounds or any estate to the value of sixty pounds". In 1801 the qualification was changed to "such as pay to one single tax beside the poll or polls a sum equal to two thirds of a single poll tax". It was strongly felt that only those who had a property stake in the town should have the privilege and responsibility of voting on financial matters. The tax payer dominated the political scene. The modern conception that a man has a right to vote regardless of his economic condition was unheard of then. Although a large number of pages were still left in the first bulky record book, the clerk, Jonathan Wales, decided in 1820 to buy a new book, stating his reasons thus: "It appears necessary that those Books containing town Records should not be much defaced, the first part of this book starts some from the binding—the last part has been used as a memorandum and further it is much more convenient keeping records on books lined than plain—the Clerk has for the above reasons purchased another book to be kept exclusively for record of the proceedings of town Meetings from Ad 1820 the succeeding years".

In the back of the book are odds and ends of town business, the hire of the salt marshes, the expense of the poor, an auction where Jacob Niles bought a pair of "Spectacles" for 1.17; intentions of marriage, "Entered this day Octr 26th 1799 with me an Intention of marriage between Mr. James Towers of Braintree and Miss Betsey Thayer of Randolph in order for publishment"; returns of marriages performed by Dr. Jonathan Strong and Rev. Joel Briggs; various oaths of offices, "personally appeared before the following persons and Sworn to faithful discharge of their offices . . . Jon. Spear sworn Hogreave . . . "a sale of jewelry and a list of militia men, all without regard for date or orderly sequence.

## Notes on Chapter Two

(1) There is indication that some of our town records have been lost. J. White Belcher, writing in 1893, says that he cannot find the identity of the "Trusty person" to whose care the "Old Town Books" were committed. Neither can the present writer. The vote (May 14, 1810)

seems to indicate that the books were even then lost, for the committee is instructed to find them. Apparently there is no remaining trace of the trunk in which all printed books belonging to the town were to be placed by order of a vote in 1819. Nor do we know where "Records No.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

I" referred to on page 264 of the first town book may be; nor the "Clerk's Files" mentioned on page 269. These records must be numbered with the four or five missing pages of the New South Precinct records of nearly a century before. Possibly they still exist in a dusty corner of some Randolph attic. Some later historian may bring them to light.

(2) It is commonly assumed that the town of Randolph was named in honor of Peyton Randolph, (1721-1775) member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, active member of the Committee of Correspondence for that state, and first president of the Continental Congress. But the present writer finds mystery concerning the selection of this name. Apparently the name had not been chosen as late as January 18, 1793, for the counter-petition of that date refers merely to a "town by some other name", but a month and a day later, by the time the Act of Incorporation had been started through the legislative mills, the name had been decided upon. If a specific action concerning the name was taken during this time, the records show absolutely no trace of it.

A number of interesting questions immediately present themselves. Was a committee chosen to select a name, and if so, of whom was the committee constituted? Did this committee propose a number of names to the town, or was the name of Randolph the only one under consideration? Had any one in the town known Peyton Randolph personally? Did his family ever send a letter to the town acknowledging the honor? Had his activity in the Virginia Committee of Correspondence during pre-Revolutionary days brought him into epistolary contact with Samuel Bass, Joseph White, or other dignitaries of the precinct?

All these questions, and others, are probably unanswerable, since diligent search among known existing manuscripts and secondary sources reveals no trace of any written record of the whole matter. What is even more puzzling is that no tradition or story attaches itself to the selection of this name. Even the venerable Dr. Alden, the prime source of tradition for ancient Randolph, remains silent on the point. All historians of the town bear witness to the fact that it was Peyton Randolph for whom our town was named, but the strange lack of any contemporary evidence must place the matter among things not wholly certain.

(3) See John V. Beal: Oration, Centennial Celebration pp. 27, 35, 36, for an extended account of this matter.

(4) A clever and accurate account of this controversy is given by Judge Asa French of Braintree: Centennial Celebration pp. 68-70.

(5) The confusion in our time concerning the draft and veterans' problems should not be forgotten.

(6) The custom of drinking at public occasions lingered on. In 1825 an item at the raising of the Third Congregational Meeting House, now (1943) the Grange Hall, read, "To 11 drinks . . . 35 cents."

(7) Lest we think that stopping travellers on the Sabbath an outrageous violation of rights, let us remember similar work by our ODT officials in 1943.

(8) The present town farm on Pleasant Street had no occupants in 1942.

(9) The evils and inefficiencies attendant upon Federal relief efforts during the great depression of the 1930's are still fresh in our minds.



SOUTH MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH TO THE SQUARE, ABOUT 1895.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

### *Years of Growth - 1820-1892*

THE major lines of development of the town had been marked out in the century since ancient Cohato was first settled. The second century saw Randolph developing as a typical New England town. Indeed so typical was it that a prominent modern commentator, has made the Randolph of this period, as reflected in the writings of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, the prototype of all small New England towns. Interestingly enough, one of Randolph's great distinctions, the boot and shoe industry receives very little attention in the town records. At this time in American life, business and government were not so closely related as in our day, hence the treatment of the industry that made Randolph famous in the far parts of the world, must be drawn from other sources than the town clerk's volumes.

This chapter is written for those who are interested in the details of town business in a day that is gone. Those who take the time to peruse it will gain an appreciation of the way in which the town meeting has broadened its scope, reaching out increasingly to touch more and more points of the citizen's life. At first concerned mainly with schools, roads and the poor; as the years went on, the town responded to the more complex social order growing up about it with a bigger budget, more employees, and an increasingly responsible part in the protections of persons and property.

Our treatment will be the year by year representation of what took place at the town meetings. No effort will be made to systematize these events other than the slow crystalization inherent in the events themselves.

#### 1820

Jonathan Wales, Jr. served as town clerk. The great concern of this year was the problem of redistricting the schools. As the town grew, more schools were necessary, but when a district was divided, for a time the old district was weakened. Since the town allotted money on the basis of the number of families in a district, it may be seen that the strong districts were powerfully opposed to change. (Two thirds of the appropriation were divided by districts, and the other third by families.) The bitterness of

the fight is shown by the fact of votes such as 51 yeas, 54 nays; 51 yeas, 56 nays. A number of adjourned meetings were necessary to get workable compromises. Only one man was willing to serve as school committee man.

The newly-erected stone poor-house on South Street was made into a work house with the selectmen in charge. A committee appointed in May to buy a "burying cloth", reported no progress, as did the committee appointed to settle the line between Randolph and Braintree. The tax bills were bid off at vendue to Jonathan Stetson at 1.6 cents on the dollar. This meant that of all the money he could collect on bad bills he was to have the above-named percentage. This year was noted for the number of meetings, eight being held in all. There were three adjourned meetings in April alone. Afternoon was the common time of gathering with 2, 3, and 4 being usual hours. This year town expenses were \$1000.00 and school expenses \$600.00.

#### 1821

The school ferment continued to work. The selectmen and the town clerk were given authority to divide the school districts, and the school committee was forbidden to make any further division of the money. Seven new districts were set up. John Maddan wanted to send his children to another district and his petition was placed on file. Persons elected to public office had to accept or be fined, but there were those who really did not "choose to run" and paid their fines. The selectmen were made a committee to take care of disposing of the poor "now abroad" i.e., living out of town, and to consider the matter of "tipplers". Town expense was \$1200.00, schools \$600.00.

#### 1822

The problem of "tipplers" was handled by listing some 11 persons who were "so far intemperate as to attract the notice of the Selectmen" and retailers were forbidden to sell them liquor. The selectmen were empowered to add to this list, which contained, the chronicler grieves to note, names of



proud families in Randolph. A committee of three was empowered to inquire into "cases of Bastardy known to be in town, or any paupers or persons connected with them, and to proceed against them at the next Superior Court". The town had no intention of making things easy for those whose immorality meant expense to the town. The physical expansion of the town finds expression in a vote to buy "fire hooks and ladders, and keep them in various parts of the Town under direction of the fire wards". This year the town spent \$1300.00 for current expense and \$600.00 for schools plus "Cottings donation". The old benefactor's name was consistently misspelled during this period.

1823

Jonathan Wales Jr. resigned as town clerk, and "Discharges the town from any further demands for past services". His fees, he said, had been enough. He was given a vote of thanks, and Royal Turner elected his successor. The committee on real estate was instructed to ascertain the claims of the town on "a certain pew lately owned by Wid. Susannah Howard, deceased". Roads came to the forefront of attention and a tax of "one dollar per poll and estates in proportion" was levied. Citizens were forbidden to put stones in the road without permission of the highway surveyors. The school problem still seethed, and in hope of bringing reason and peace to the deliberations "the ministers of the different religious societies" were added to the school committee. The town voted \$1000.00 for general expense and \$600.00 for schools plus "Cotten's donation". Some meticulously accurate soul (probably Dr. Ebenezer Alden; the writing looks like his) has put the correct form at the bottom of the page, "Coddington's donation". Incidentally, the town record books have faulty paging here, skipping from p. 48 to 50.

1824

At the April meeting Seth Mann Esq. gave forty dollars, part of his pay as representative to the town, and was properly thanked. Apparently this tribe of legislators has decreased. The committee on vaccination reported that it had been made general throughout the town. Slowly this innovation, at first thundered at by the pulpit as a blasphemous attempt to thwart the Lord's will for the individual, and feared by the ignorant, was making headway.

No longer was smallpox the horror that it had been in ancient times, and the day of the shunned and dreaded "pest house" at the edge of town was passing. At the November meeting a committee was chosen to confer with the First Congregational Church on the subject of procuring a town hall or suitable place for meetings. Up until this time the meetings had been held at the "center meeting house", and the Congregational people were engaged in erecting a new edifice, the structure now located on North Street. Of the old center meeting house nothing now remains but the circular steps on the annex of Jonathan Belcher Hall. Town expenses this year were \$900.00, and the school sum, plus Coddington's aid, \$700.00.

1825

Royal Turner signed the warrant this year with a great flourish of his signature. The town hall committee reported in the March meeting that "said Parish will provide and lease for town meeting a town hall for ten years at \$27.00 and for twenty years at \$21.00 per annum". No motion is recorded but this was apparently accepted and the committee instructed to close with them. Incidentally, strange as it sounds to our modern ears, the Church building was the polling place, a typical symbol of the close relation of Church and Town in those days.

It was voted that the "town cause a new hearse to be built and an new burying cloth provided". The old cloth was to be kept in the East part of the town, and the old hearse sold. Burying the dead was still a civic function. Deacon Elisha Mann, Seth Mann Esq. and Royal Turner were appointed a committee to invest in bank shares. Squire Mann continued his philanthropy by giving the town \$50.00 to buy school books. Town expense this year was \$900.00 and schools \$700.00 plus Coddington's money.

1826

For the only time noted in town history, the meeting opened with prayer. Rev. Calvin Hitchcock gave this invocation, and this novelty was doubtless due to the fact that the meeting was the first town gathering in the new building. Repairs on the powder house were voted and the selectmen were authorized to build "a stone bridge over the Co chato", probably at the Union Street crossing. The



committee on education, with Dr. Ebenezer Alden as chairman, reported that each district should appoint its own committee and hire its own teachers. Teachers must be qualified to instruct in "Orthography and good behavior instead of grammar as by law they are required to do". Good spelling and good manners ranked high with our fathers. Much time was spent in lining out districts this year, and in choosing committees. Much governmental responsibility was in the hands of volunteers, in contrast with our professional teaching corps. It was reported that districts one and two contained "upwards of 80 families". The town's expense was \$1100.00, and the Schools \$800.00 with Coddington's money.

1827

The fuss about districting continued to bubble and seeth, with a number of ungranted petitions for redistricting, but a more sensational topic took the forefront of attention. It was voted that "the practise of offering spirituous liquors to electors of representatives is contrary to the principles of free and independent institutions, and . . . an indirect system of bribery. Voted, It shall hereafter be held dishonorable for any representative elect to offer spirituous liquor or any other entertainment . . . to the independent citizens of this town".

A strange and astonishingly modern note was sounded in the March meeting which is worth quoting in its entirety. "March 5, 1827. Voted that the inhabitants of this town deeply sympathize with the suffering Greeks, and request the clergymen in the several religious societies to propose public contributions among their respective people and that the selectmen transmit the same to the Greek Committee in Boston". As this is being written almost identical appeals are being made for the citizens of the same country. It is interesting to note that the New Englander of a century and a quarter ago, frugal and provincial as he was, could rise above his "closeness" and parochialism at times.

It would appear at this time that the town's bookkeeping had been lax, for a committee was chosen to "examine the accounts of the selectmen for five years past" and they were told to keep their accounts up in the future. The town spent \$1100.00 for expenses, and \$900.00 for schools, plus the Coddington donation.

1828

The poor, which fulfilled the word of Scripture by being always with the New England town, occupied the meeting's attention this year. It was voted that they receive medical attention from a physician in town. A further humanitarian motion, tending to soften the harsh life of the pauper, was to the effect that children were not to remain in the poor house. They were to be "bound out", or put in care of some suitable person or persons. But the mood of the meeting was not merely one of coddling. No pauper was to have liquor while at the poor house, and no pauper could leave the premises of the poor house without permission of one of the overseers.

An ambiguous colloquialism appears to tease the curiosity of the historian. A committee was appointed to investigate the "doings" of school district number 4. What this means the reader must guess. Clear and unmistakable, however, is the selectmen's auditing of the town's expense. Apparently nettled by the admonition of the previous year they did not ask for a round sum to be voted for current expenses, but precisely requested for \$1366.18. School expenses were \$900.00 and Coddington's aid.

1829

Henry Alden was elected town clerk. During this period it was the custom to devote the first meeting in April to the election of town officers. The matter of finance was then taken up in the May meeting. The expenditures in 1829 were \$1100.00 for the town, and for the school, \$900.00 plus Coddington's donation. At the May meeting the town was divided into fifteen highway districts. The selectmen were authorized to appoint some suitable person to take charge of funerals, and his compensation was to be in their hands.

1830

A meeting in February was called for 12 noon. A tart pencilled notation (possibly from the hand of Ebenezer Alden) reveals that it actually got under way at 2.21 P. M. An odd note is sounded by the representatives who, after being elected at the May meeting, thanked the town for electing them, but "request a time, not to exceed Wednesday next, in which to make up their minds regarding their acceptance of the trust reposed in them". Pos-



sibly they did not look with favor upon the idea of travelling off to Boston and the General Court, but apparently they decided to serve as the records contain no evidence of further elections.

The committee on education reported that the population of persons aged from 1-18 was 956, and those from 10-18 375. They asked for more time to study their problems, but were dismissed. Possibly they were going to recommend expensive building. The town voted \$1200.00 for current expense, and \$900.00 for schools, with Coddington's donation unmentioned.

1831

The clergy were active in the town this year with the First Congregational, the Second Congregational, and the Baptist pastors being elected to the school board. The Rev. David Brigham, the able minister of the Second Church, was elected representative. This Church incidentally was in East Randolph, now Holbrook, and has ceased to exist. It is not to be confused with the present Congregational Church in Holbrook.

A tumult arose in town meeting over the matter of snow removal. Sixteen bills for snow removal were presented totalling \$786.00 for 786½ days' work. The committee felt that this staggering charge should be scaled down and recommended that the bills were to be settled at the rate of 75 cents a day. In the future a man was to be paid 10 cents an hour. (This rate remained till 1838 when it was raised to 12½ cents an hour). If anyone lived "out of the road" . . . "No one shall be paid for their labour in making a way passable to the public road". The fuss about snow removal continued into the May meeting, and a proposal to repair the North Bridgewater (Brockton) road, was held off. Town expenses were \$1200.00 and school a straight \$1000.00.

1832

This year was marked by great highway controversy, a sign of the physical expansion of the town. A new high in current expense appears, \$1800.00 and a sidelight on the habits of going to school a century and a quarter ago appears in the provision made in voting the school money, which was \$1000.00 again. A census was made of the persons 3-21 years of age, and "Married persons were not to be counted as scholars" in dividing the money.

The committee on highways proposed a system of agents to supervise work, and the chairman Joshua Spear was of the opinion that "Forty cents laid out in this method will do as much as One dollar in the old method".

1833

The town expense mounted, \$2000.00 being voted, while the school cost stayed at \$1000.00. The town was dry and there were no "taverners ap-probated". Fifty cents cash was considered the equal of a dollar in labor in working out the highway tax. \$40.00 was voted for medical care of the poor. An indication of the growing responsibility of the town is found in the vote to leave to the selectmen the compensation of W. W. Lathrop for "injuries sustained because of the bad state of road by Ephraim Wales".

1834

This was a meager year as far as actual events were concerned. There were more school investigations, and highway arguments. The most interesting trend is to be seen in the financial votes. The schools were first voted \$1000.00, then \$200.00 more. The town's expenses were a surprising \$3500.00, a total of \$4700.00. Inasmuch as the total expense ten years before had been \$1800.00, \$700.00 for schools and \$900.00 for current expenses, it will be seen that the educational costs were almost doubled while the town's expenses had nearly quadrupled. These figures tell a story in the words of the clerk's book. The town was growing, and growing fast.

1835

The controversies over highways raged. In August a complaint was entered against the high cost of improving the country road through East Parish, a sentence with small regard for grammar and a fine anticlimax. The work had "increased taxation to such an amount as to render not only extremely burdensome but inconvenient. In proportion to our population . . . the amount expended in this town in our opinion far exceeds that of any other town in Norfolk Co." The complainants made it clear that "While we view with pleasure all and every improvement", the tax bill was a little too much for comfort.



The fire department comes in for attention this year. "All enginemen who conform to the laws regulating engines and enginemen shall be entitled to the reimbursement of their poll tax. This method of paying the call firemen was a controverted matter. There was a similar vote in 1837. In 1839 the town voted "not to remit it". In 1840 they were to get the benefit of remission and in 1841 only "if they kept their engines clean". In 1844 they got their tax remitted and a cash payment of \$2.00. It is interesting to note the small sums then paid for the protection of persons and property, in contrast with the sums needed in our time.

Alvan Kidder was made town clerk and a committee was authorized to transfer the books to him. The school expenditures this year amounted to \$1200.00.

1836

What is now North Main Street was repaired, "near property belonging to Benj. Dickerman, Niles and Coley's store, and Peter Holbrook". School costs reached \$1500.00, town expenses \$2000.00.

1837

This year was marked by a great deal of attention to highway building and attendant problems. Seventy-five cents in labor was made the equal of a dollar in cash in working out the highway tax. A description of laying out a town way occupies five closely written pages. A mysterious person named "Billy Belcher" appears in the records, mysterious because it is the first, and to this writer's knowledge, the only nickname in the town records, and he seems to have done no noteworthy deeds.

In the July meeting the town accepted a sum of Federal money, the mechanics of which confuse the present scribe. A sample of the complicated motions is to be found in one which worked out a system of responsibility for the money. A part of the motion read "The head of every family whether male or female be required to give an attested note of hand with interest at one per cent per annum for themselves and all persons residing in their families under 21 years of age". Town expense was \$2250.00 and school costs \$1500.00.

1838

Auditors were elected for the selectmen's accounts. The town's share of the surplus federal revenue was \$5141.81, the largest lump sum men-

tioned in town history to this time. Two agents had worked seventeen days getting the notes of hand, and they put in a bill for \$21.25. A. Kidder wanted no more remuneration. He had had the use of the money for a while. Two books for the town clerk (beautiful jobs of binding) cost \$10.75. The road from "Rev. Calvin Hitchcock's meeting house to East Randolph (Union Street) was straightened". Town expense this year \$2500.00, school, \$1800.00.

1839

The warrant contained an article "To see if the Town will accept the amount received of Henry Lee Currier by the overseers of the poor on account of an illegitimate child of Hannah Stetson". Henry's misdeed cost him \$150.00, nearly six months' pay, and probably convinced him that the way of the transgressor is at least expensive.

The meeting incidentally, though called for 9 in the morning, did not get under way until 2:28 as our unknown commentator with the pencil informs us. A meeting two years later called for 1 began at 2:29. (It is not hard to imagine the disgust of hard working farmers as they waited for a quorum to appear.) Bradford Wales was chosen town clerk, and he made his entries in a clear semi-printed hand, the most legible since Jonathan Wales' fine penmanship.

Considerable and varied business was conducted this year. Three representatives to the General Court were elected. A committee was elected to inquire into "the propriety of building a tomb in each of the Publick Cemeteries for the purpose of receiving the dead in winter". The total town expense gave another great leap, with \$3000.00 voted for general expenses and \$1900.00 for schools. A new item takes its place in the growing economy of the town. \$3000.00 is voted for the support of highways. The poor are still a problem, and the matter of buying a new farm was discussed. Although no direct mention is ever made in the records, the figures tell us that Randolph is growing as a shoe manufacturing town and its problems are multiplying.

A proposal to purchase a new fire engine was made. In the fact that the warrant was to be posted in "three principle meeting houses", there may be a hint that other denominations were building, although the Roman Catholic Church was not yet established.



1840

Another new factor appears at this time. For the first time the matter of borrowing by the town appears. The sum of \$2000.00 at not more than 6% is voted. The highway money was again \$3000.00, current expenses \$300.00, and the schools a flat \$2000.00. The cost of civic service is mounting by leaps and bounds. The fire wards were given badges. Two items may be mentioned. Any sick pauper could employ a "Thompsonian practitioner" if the medical man of that description lives in town. Further, the town sternly voted that it would not "provide any place for an Armory of the Randolph Rifle Corpse" (sic).

1841

A further symbol of the separation of Church and State which we have traced since the early days when the Congregational parish was the town appears in 1841. A "town house" committee was chosen. Apparently the rapid growth of the town was straining the facilities of the First Congregational edifice. The town was reaching a size where a building exclusively for civic purposes was needed. Sites were examined, and one — the motions are not clear — apparently purchased.

Ebenezer Alden, Randolph's great historian, reported that the Hon. John Quincy Adams would write the history of Braintree and Randolph for two centuries. Flattered by the great man's interest, they promptly asked him to do so. The present writer can find no trace of this history. The article on John Q. Adams in the Dictionary of American Biography, compiled by the American Council of Learned Societies does not list this as one of his writings.

In this year not only were there pleasant signs of growth manifesting themselves, but more ominous portents. On May 3, 1841 a paper read by Nathaniel Spear and signed by Elisha H. Holbrook and "130 others, inhabitants of East Randolph, in form of a petition to divide the town". Ignoring the petition the town merely went on to add the names of James Maguire, Ephraim Belcher, A. E. Dubois and D. Alden to the building committee. But the seed that was to ripen into the present town of Holbrook had been sown.

We now come to a living link with present day Randolph. Up until this time we have dealt with much that was purely historical, excepting only the

old Meeting House now on North Street. But on June 17, 1841 an important communication was sent to the town. Amasa Stetson offered to erect and present a Town Hall. The meeting accepted the offer enthusiastically. "Resolved, that we cordially reciprocate (perhaps Bradford Wales or whoever framed the motion was so pleased that he confused "reciprocate" with "appreciate") the kind and generous feelings which have prompted the honorable gentleman to so distinguished an act of liberality to the place of his nativity". They told the previous committee to cease work, and appointed Jacob Niles, J. Wales, Royal Turner, Bradford Wales and Alvin Kidder a new committee. In August they were still working, trying to get rid of the lot previously purchased. On September 13, they decided not to buy the Samuel Bass lot, and on November 8 reported that they had bought the bank lot for \$4000.00. But the town voted they would rather have the Samuel Bass lot, and the selectmen were given power to swap the lots.

The town expenses this year were \$3000.00, roads \$3000.00, schools \$2000.00.

1842

At a meeting held January 3, the selectmen were authorized to buy the S. Bass lot for \$3000.00 and to rent the bank a room in the new Town hall. A motion was made in the March meeting to buy the lot from the "late Samuel Bass Esq. for \$3500.00, provided the owner will deed the town all the front land to the stake of H. Belcher" and accept as part pay the "Rock Lot" (Corner of South Street and Union?) Whoever the owner was, since the Colonel was gathered to his fathers, was willing, and the deed was done.

The April meeting voted to put a suitable inscription on the west end of town hall stating by whom given and year of erection. All committees were to work without recompense.

A note of tragedy finds its way into the annals. "Voted, that the selectmen take all suitable measures to recover the bodies of the two children of Wm. Lyan's (sic) drowned in Great Pond Saturday last". Had an unseasonably warm April day tempted the children to their death?

The town expenses were \$3000.00, the schools \$2000.00, and the highway cost had climbed to a total of \$3950.00. When the special appropriation of \$3500.00 for the lot is added, it may be seen that



the town's spending was reaching sizable proportion. Further, another major item appears. \$950.00 was voted to erect engine houses for "Fire King, Aquarius, Relief, West Corners, and Faxon's Corners".

The correspondence between Amasa Stetson and the town deserves full consideration, not merely because its outcome was our present town hall and Stetson High School, but because of the inherent farsightedness shown by this chief of Randolph philanthropists. In a letter written from Dorchester dated December 1, 1842, he says, in part:

"Gentlemen, in forming a plan for a Town House for the accommodation of the Inhabitants of Randolph . . . in the transaction of their public business, I found that a building for the purpose would not be so capatious (sic) without apparent waste of property as the respectability of the Town and the eligible (sic) site provided for it required."

He proposed, therefore, to have business offices downstairs and an Academy, and the rents from the offices were to go to the school. "It is not intended," he said, in a thrust at educational practice which is strangely true today, "that the Academy shall divert industry from productive pursuits as Academical Collegiate teachings tend to do, but to extend and improve the instruction of male youth, beyond the instruction those of similar ages acquire in the common schools of the town; not that I wish them taught any other than the English language, but that which shall be best calculated to promote their usefulness, prosperity, and worth as citizens". This proviso is well worth noting, for in the present day, there is a common feeling that the high school system must put more stress upon subjects which shall enable the pupil to integrate himself into the economic and political life which lies beyond graduation. Some of the money for the Academy was to come from fees. It was Amasa Stetson's wish to found a school, "which, though not a large one, may yet be a credit to the town and of great advantage to the rising generation".

The town agreed with his provisions, and voted that the building "Be ever hereafter known as 'Stetson Hall' ". The selectmen were instructed to take these resolutions of acceptance to the benefactor, and enjoined not to be sparing in the use of expressions of gratitude and appreciation. They were also told to sound him out about having his portrait painted, and empowered to employ an artist for a sum not exceeding \$400.00.

1843

The flood of benefaction had not yet ebbed, however. A letter from Dorchester dated Feb. 15, 1843, carried further good news. The rents from the offices, said Amasa Stetson, would hardly suffice to finance an Academy, hence he desired to give the town the sum of \$10,000.00, for a school. The sum of Ten Thousand dollars does not sound like a great amount to us today, but a little comparison will bring to our minds some of the magnitude of the donation for that time. It was enough to run the town for a year. Today such an amount would be far larger. Since the functions of a town have grown more complex and costly in a century the analogy is not wholly fair, but is perhaps as accurate an estimate as any to say that Amasa Stetson's gifts to the town were fully the equal of a donation of \$250,000.00 made in our time.

The conditions he laid down are worth quoting in part since they reveal considerable shrewdness as well as a philanthropic spirit. The great donors of yesterday got their money the hard way; they were not inclined to put it into careless hands without legal strings attached.

1. The fund and the rent of town hall were to be kept separate from other town moneys, and was to be known as the Fund of Stetson High School, the Fund was to be under absolute control of a board of trustees. In the event of "The alienation or destruction of Stetson Hall . . . some other building on or near said plot . . ." was to house the school.

2. The trustees shall have absolute control of the school and "Shall admit without favor or affection or partiality from each and every section of the town male children only between ages of 14 and 18". If there were too many applicants, the old Biblical method of casting lots was to be used to determine the lucky ones, a system which stands comparison with our modern method of getting students into crowded schools by personal influence. If there were still more worthy applicants the age limits might be stretched up or down.

3. "The introduction of any other than the English language or any branch deemed necessary for a Collegiate education . . . at the expense of the Fund are hereby prohibited". . . . But if any future contributor wanted to give money for this purpose . . . "It shall not be considered incompatible with the Fund". It is clear that Amasa Stetson had



a strong distrust of educational frills, chief among which he placed foreign or dead languages. The practical spirit of a Yankee merchant is strong in his conditions. Other provisions outlined the tasks of the trustees, their election, methods of town co-operation and machinery for handling conflicts that might arise.

The town gratefully accepted these provisions, and ordered them printed for public distribution, together with his correspondence with the town. Col. Royal Turner, Aaron Prescott Esq. (possibly the man for whom Prescott School was named) and Levi Paine were elected the first trustees.

with their vote all legal proceedings against the persons who are engaged in such business". The point of interest is not the moral principle, but the fact that "bowling alleys" are mentioned. Not only is one surprised to find the term is of a century's standing in Randolph (apparently indoors) but the fact it is used in the plural.

The needs for further protection of property crops up. A fire department was proposed at the April meeting. The fire wards were charged with setting up hook and ladder companies and to buy buckets for their bucket companies. No equipment was to be bought until the companies were organ-



THE SQUARE . . . PERHAPS IN 1893.

The powder house was put up for sale, and certain paupers told that if they needed help before December first they were to go to the alms house. This year the town appropriated \$2000.00 for school, \$3000.00 for current expense, and \$2400.00 for roads.

1844

An interesting motion was passed. "Voted, that the citizens of Randolph view with regret the existence within their limits of certain places which are devoted to the sale of spirituous liquors, also bowling alleys and oyster saloons which are conducted contrary to law, and they will sanction

ized. Each company was to elect one of its number as chief. Later a special meeting was called and A. E. Dubois reported that no one seemed interested in bucket companies or hook and ladder companies, "... because he had notified the persons composing the committee of the meeting and only one beside himself appeared". It is evident that the town was growing too fast for the efforts of volunteers. Gradually running a town was becoming a business, not a civic duty; and professionals were taking the place of amateurs.

This year town expense was \$3500.00, roads, \$2400.00, and school \$2000.00.



1845

A factor new to Randolph, which was making itself felt all over the country now appears in the clerk's records. A railroad was proposed, to run between Bridgewater and Quincy. The voters favored it as "facilitating intercourse with the capitol and sustaining the manufacturing interests upon which the prosperity of the town depends". With the first reference to the shoe industry in the political annals of the town, a committee of eight, among them being such powerful names as Dr. E. Alden, James Maguire and Col. Royal Turner, was appointed to promote a railroad, and instructed to "use all fair and honorable means to such an end".

The town's two poor houses figure in the motions for the year, and the town bought a hearse for the east and west parts of the town and built two hearse houses. Expenses were \$3500.00, schools \$2000.00, roads \$2400.00.

1846

The town's growth shows itself in the reports. A great many people were resigning immediately when elected to office, beginning with the moderator, Dr. Wales. The town's financial structure was beginning to get complicated and we find references to tax discounts and detailed instructions to the treasurer, who was authorized to borrow not more than \$4000.00. The assessors appointed Moses French "in room of" Luther Thayer, the collector of taxes, for the latter's failure to perform duties of office, and neglecting and refusing to give bond. It was voted to pay Ezekiel French, constable, \$1.24 for each of the funerals he had attended in the past year. Roads and schools stayed stable in cost as \$2400.00 and \$2000.00 respectively, but town expense shot up to \$4360.00, a new high.

1847

Another railway petition appeared, like the first one in form, but desiring a Randolph Station at some convenient point on the Fall River line in East Stoughton or Randolph.

The meeting of February 16 saw the subject of the suffering poor of Ireland brought before the meeting and the Rev. Calvin Hitchcock, DD, pastor of the Congregational Church, and the Rev. William A. Peabody, and the Rev. Mr. Blood, pastors of the Second Church and the Baptist Church,

were named a committee to appoint three persons in their parishes to take contributions for the relief of Ireland. "Voted, that the doings of this meeting be published in the Boston Atlas and the Boston Post".

"Bowling saloons and gambling houses" were subjects of unfavorable mention. Town auditors were elected for the first time. The roads and schools got the customary \$2400.00 and \$2000.00 appropriation, but the town expense continued to mount, reaching an even \$5000.00.

1848

Bradford Wales and a committee were ordered to appear before the legislature to push the matter of a railroad. An odd motion instructs "Eleazar Beale to appear before the legislature to petition of the Mayor of the city of Roxbury, that Roxbury be made the shire of Norfolk instead of Dedham". It was voted that the selectmen keep in good repair all roads that cross the Fall River railroad, and that the town pay the expenses of "entertaining" the out of town firemen at the burning of Mr. Beal's barn. Apparently the "visiting firemen" are creatures of long standing. A committee was chosen to draft by-laws to suppress the sale of cider, beer and fermented liquors. Anybody who sold porter, ale or strong beer without a license was to be fined \$20.00 and nobody could be a retailer who handled less than 28 gallons at a time. Road appropriations slumped to \$1500.00, the schools got \$2000.00, and the town \$5000.00.

1849

The complexity of town government increases. The January meeting orders all dogs to be collared and "Every person in town shall be a committee to kill dogs not so kept". Eleazar Beal was elected town clerk. He still kept the old fashioned long "s" in his hand writing, and he is easy to read because he understood the modern advertising principle of plenty of white space. The tithing men have dropped out as town officers. The "engine" men were voted an amount equal to their poll tax plus \$1.00 and repairs on their engines. A committee was chosen to prosecute all persons guilty of violating the license law. Another evidence of the long slow decline of the Puritan influence, which, to speak in a figure, was a sun that had been setting since the parish became a precinct, is to be seen



in the fact that this committee was also empowered to prosecute persons "guilty of desecrating Sabbath by playing ball, pitching quoits, or any other game whatsoever". The old South Parish needed no laws like this; the very thought of the Sabbath-breaking sports cited in this motion would have been anathema to them. The stern old Parson could have handled a sinful youth guiltily engaged in such profanation without the aid of town edicts.

The town expense reached \$6000.00, the roads cost \$1,500.00.

1850

This was a dull year, politically speaking. Aside from opposing the use of the Taunton Turnpike, (now High Street) as a public way the town did nothing but vote \$1500.00 for highways, \$2500.00 for schools and \$6000.00 for town expenses.

Although such factories as Burrell and Maguires were making money hand over fist supplying Randolph boots for the California gold fields, no word of this activity touches the pages of the town records.

1851

The trustees of the Stetson High School fund were requested to light Stetson Hall with a "chandelier or chandeliers". Only doctors residing in Randolph were to be paid for care of paupers. Town expense this year was \$6000.00, roads \$1500.00, schools \$2500.00. Each school district got a flat allotment of \$150.00 while the rest was divided in proportion of the number of scholars from 5-15 years in each district.

1852

The Rev. C. M. Cordley was elected "superintending School Committee" member. For several years the town had "neglected" to elect assessors, and the selectmen are to do this task along with the overseership of the poor. Appropriations just matched the preceding year.

1853

An interesting article in the warrant was to see if the town would avail itself of an act passed by the legislature authorizing towns to establish libraries. It was referred to the next annual meeting. A Committee of Vigilance was elected with the duty of "prosecuting to final judgment all persons who have been or shall hereafter be guilty of burning

or setting fire to any building or other property within the limits of the town". This committee was to be paid, another indication of the process taking place in these years — the shift of civic function from amateurs to professional. This is more clearly revealed by the fact that the word "Police" is used for the first time in the town's official records. They were empowered "to look after and prosecute all persons who shall be guilty of intemperance — keepers of Bowling Saloons . . . and keepers of Noisy and Disorderly Houses". Bowling apparently was a sport fraught with moral peril, and just how much we are to read into the expression "Disorderly House" is beyond the scope of these annals.

A sealer of weights and measures was elected for the first time, although kindred offices are very ancient. A pair of road scrapers were purchased, the first mention made of machinery for town use. A record budget was adopted, \$6000.00 for current expenses, \$3000.00 for schools and \$2000.00 for roads.

A grim warning to the rising tide of evil-doers is to be found in a motion presented this year, to the effect that the town build a lock-up. It was voted to be "a part of the cellar in Stetson Hall 20 ft. sq. to contain seven cells . . . to be done in a cheap and convenient manner". If putting it in the basement of Stetson Hall was illegal, it was to be built "as cheap as possible on land attached to poor house".

1854

Hiram C. Alden was elected town clerk, a post which he was to hold for many years.

This year is chiefly noteworthy for the wide educational reforms which were initiated. Always education has been important in New England towns, and our people have shown great wisdom and adaptability in shifting to meet the age of each new era. Since the readjustment in the early 1820's the district system had given satisfaction, but the passage of three decades brought problems with which the old method could not cope. The sprawling organization, with each district running its own affairs and hiring its own teachers, was too cumbersome to continue.

A committee appointed to study the matter brought in radical suggestions. They proposed that the old system of a committee for each district be abolished and that a central committee with great powers be formed. "A committee of ten persons,



one from each school district, plus a superintending committee selected by the Town, shall constitute the Superintending School Committee of the Town and said committee shall manage all affairs pertaining to schools of town, including buildings and repairing of school houses, procuring teachers, and all other matters connected therewith". The schools were to be called grammar schools, and the curriculum begins to have a familiar ring in modern ear. "The masters shall each be competent to instruct in . . . history of U. S., book-keeping, surveying; geometry, algebra, Latin and Greek language, General History, Rhetoric and Logic".

The serious intent behind the movement is indicated by the fact that the committee submitted a motion to purchase the existing schools for \$11,500.00. The proposals were put forward April 10, 1854 and accepted April 24. A huge budget resulted. The \$11,500.00 was voted, and although the town had previously voted \$7000.00, for current expenses, \$3000.00 for schools and \$2000.00 for roads, a further \$3000.00 was voted to carry the report into effect. This sum of \$26,500.00 reflects not only the growing size of the town, but the way in which New Englanders have always been ready to spend money for education.

It must not be thought that mere expenditure settled the problems at once. There were many matters to be cared for. A vote made August 14, tells of one . . . "In regard to reading of Sacred Scriptures that the Superintending School Committee of this town, be requested to cause the good old method to be pursued of reading in the English version of the New Testament by scholars in all our school of sufficient acquirements to read the same intelligently". Pause may be made to question if some scholarly master was demanding that the pupils read in Latin or Greek to make this motion needful, and to ask further how many pupils today have mastered the knack of reading aloud intelligently.

Several meetings were held in this year to make arrangements for the new school system.

1855

This year also saw struggle with the educational innovations. The old order died hard. The selectmen were ordered to buy a safe for the town, and they were to appraise each engine man be-

fore he had his poll tax abated. The meetings during these years make frequent motions forbidding dogs to run at large. For some unknown reason a Mrs. T. H. Broderick was voted a gratuity of \$50.00. Town expenses was \$7000.00, support of schools \$3500.00, roads \$200.00.

1856

There were complicated problems connected with the property rights in setting up the new school system, and many motions made. The selectmen were appointed a committee to oppose setting off a part of Randolph to Stoughton. It was voted that the liquor agencies sell what liquors they have and close up shop.

A hint of the shadow of the war which was soon to darken the nation is found in an article in the warrant "To see if the town will vote to fit up the armory of the Randolph Light Infantry Company D, 4th Regiment, and light and heat same". Town expense was \$7000.00, schools \$3500.00, highways \$2000.00. The school costs were flexible items and we later find an appropriation of \$6000.00 for a new school house in district No. 8, and \$8000.00 for another house built or to be built, besides \$600.00 for school support.

1857

It was voted that the town treasurer receive for his services a sum equal to one fourth of one percent on what sums he may receive and disburse. School costs were \$4200.00, roads \$200.00, and an attempt at economy which limited town expense to \$5000.00, the first drop in a long time. But a later motion added \$3000.00 to this so the last estate was worse than the first. A committee on the "Coddington donation" was "requested to collect historical facts and traditional information as he thinks best in regard to donor and report the same to town at next Annual meeting". It is grievous to report here that no written trace of this report can be found. It was made verbally the following year, and ordered put into writing. It may very conceivably have contained information now lost forever.

1858

A quiet year. The selectmen were ordered to provide guide boards for the public streets. Town costs were high . . . \$9000.00, the schools needed \$5000.00, and the roads \$2000.00.



1859

Another year briefly recorded. The schools costs \$6000.00, the roads \$2000.00 and town expense rose to \$9000.00. \$5000.00 was voted for a new building in district No. 9.

The scarcity of political events affords us a chance to inquire into the economy that made these large sums possible. Quite inadvertently the writer stumbled across a rare map of Norfolk County hung on the walls of the Old Fairbanks House in Dedham, published in 1858 by H. F. Wallings. This map gives the houses in Randolph and lists the shoe manufacturies: Howard and French, on Liberty Street, A. Strong's Boot "Man'y" (Manufactory), and Hunt and French's on Union Street. In addition there were unnamed shoe shops on Grove Street, Cottage Street, North Main Street, Howard Street, and at the site of the present Congregational parsonage. There was also a shoe string factory on Liberty Street, three joiner shops on various parts of the town, a box mill at North Main Street by the old dam site. T. Houghton's cabinet shop on North Main, and an unspecified shop owned by T. Muchadon. The Randolph Transcript was a little south of the corner of West and North Main Streets.

This map, incidentally, shows the villages of East Randolph (Holbrook) and South Randolph, (Brookville). Avon was formed largely of East Stoughton. Tower Hill was a good sized village at that time.

1860

With the school system taken care of for another generation the town's thought and interest began to turn to the matter of protection from fire. It was voted to organize a Fire Department according to law. It should be noted that up till this time the companies, not the towns, owned the fire engines. The town bought its first engine this year and bought out the company engineers. (Many citizens of this day will remember that it was not too long in the past that the muster, and the contests with the hand tubs was a matter of interest and excitement.)

The town treasurer's salary (despite the "piece work" basis he had been put on in 1857) was \$75.00, town expense \$9000.00, schools \$6000.00 plus \$500.00 for repairs, roads \$2000.00.

1861

The above figures except the repair item (\$750.00) held for the first year of the Civil War. The big new matter of consideration was the impact of the strife. "Whereas, there exists a state of rebellion and war which it is necessary for our own prosperity as well as for the stability of the common govt. to suppress . . . the Town (is to) borrow a sum of money not exceeding \$5000.00, to be known as the military fund". Any volunteer Militia-man called into active service got \$6.00 a month plus what the government gave him for benefit of family. A committee of seven could draw on the fund for more money if they thought that the family needed it for their "Comfortable support". Sums advanced for soldiers by individuals (probably red tape was too slow in cases of needy soldiers) were to be repaid by the town. It was voted to publish the names of the Randolph Militia in the Randolph Transcript, and to call out the militia and receive Randolph Company D. The expense of printing and music was to be paid by the town. The town also was to buy 100 pounds of powder for use on the occasion. The small boys doubtless had a wonderful time. Cannon and salutes fired by squads have a great fascination for small fry.

1862

The schools were given \$5000.00 this year, the town needed \$10,000.00 (the first time this item has gone into five figures) and the roads got a scanty \$1000.00. Lest this seem odd remember that civilian transportation is always cut in war time. The sums appropriated by Randolph and other towns in the years 1941-1945 will be found to have suffered a severe drop.

The taxes were bid off to John Adams at the rate of 4.8 mills on the dollar a reduction of about two thirds from earliest figures cited in the records. The volume of business the town was doing permitted this small percentage on collecting bad bills. E. Beal was given \$50.00 for looking up the Coddington Fund for his now missing manuscript on the Coddington fund.

A meeting held July 22 voted that since it was "Desirable that the town of Randolph should promptly respond to the call of the Governor of the State for volunteers", that each volunteer should receive \$100.00 payable when he was mustered into service. A recruiting committee was organized



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

to determine Randolph's share of the state's quota of 15,000 men. The man who recruited the most volunteers was to be recommended for the highest position, and the volunteers were to have the privilege of electing their officers informally, this election being tantamount to a recommendation of the regular military officials that the man elected should have a commission. Each recruit was given a bonus of two dollars on signing. Here a word destined to become notorious enters the records when the \$100.00 bonus was called a "Bounty". More volunteers appeared than the town could finance, and the town had to request private subscriptions to pay them. It is interesting to note how long the nation was able to carry on the war before resorting to the draft.

The subscription committee, elected on August 24 raised a sum adequate for the emergency, \$10,675) in less than two weeks.

1863

In this meeting a political factor always powerful in American politics made its appearance, the strength of the soldier vote. A resolution by Eleazar Beal read, "That in the election of Capt. Hiram C. Alden as Clerk and Treasurer, we have not forgotten to extend a due regard to all our Town's enlisted soldiers". The highways got their meager \$1000.00, the schools \$5000.00, and the town expenses hit a record high of \$15,000.

1864

A cryptic note is to be found in the annual meeting. "Voted, that the whole matter of Hay scales be left in the hands of the selectmen". P. MacMahon was elected pound keeper. The Irish Catholic residents of Randolph were entering politics, this being the first town office held by one of the new comers, Thomas Hand, however, had been on the library committee in 1852. James Maguire, whose name often appears, was a member of the First Congregational Parish.

The roads were beginning to show results of neglect, but an appropriation of \$1500.00 was all that was voted. The highway surveyors were instructed to "pick the stones from the roads once each month from April to November, and they shall not expend any considerable amount for repairs during the summer months". A vote was passed to collect the school records.

The schools were voted \$5500.00 in addition to \$700.00 from the Stetson High Fund. At first \$15,000.00 was voted to town expense, but later this was reduced to \$8000.00. The town voted \$10,000.00 to reimburse citizens who had contributed money to pay volunteers. Apparently Capt. Alden was off to war, for Henry Stevens served as town clerk.

1865

Further educational problems arose in the need for stricter truant laws. Truants were to be punished by "a fine not exceeding \$20.00 or by confinement in the State Reform School at Westboro". "Every child in town of Randolph between ages 7 and 16, who shall not attend school and not be engaged in any lawful and regular occupation, growing up in ignorance, shall be punished" in accordance with the above by-law. The constables were named as truant officers.

The selectmen were ordered to buy two new hearses for the town, and to pay the sexton \$2.00 for every person buried belonging in town. Although Abraham Lincoln met his death early in the year (Good Friday, April 12,) no resolution of regret appears on the town records.

School costs totaled \$8300.00, town expense \$15,000.00, and the roads were given \$2500.00.

1866

An uneventful year: \$4000.00 was voted to repair Stetson Hall if the trustees would bear a third of the cost, and the lock-up was repaired. The sad note of which we are aware in our own day was first sounded this year. The treasurer was authorized to pay State aid to disabled soldiers. Schools totaled \$7500.00 (for sake of convenience, repairs are lumped with current school expense) roads, \$2500.00, and the town expense was \$16,000.00.

1867

Capt. Hiram Alden returned to take up his duties as town clerk. W. E. Jewett, feeling that the school committee did not have the sympathy and confidence of the townspeople, resigned his post. (One could wish that a certain Boston school committeeman, much in the foreground as this is written, might display like common sense.) A big budget marked this year. The roads got \$3000.00; a new item of fireman's pay made its appearance to



the tune of \$2000.00, the town expenses were again \$16,000.00, and the school budget was \$10,000.00. It was voted that the superintendent of the school committee be instructed to reduce the wages of the teachers 20% from last year "if in their opinion they can do so in justice to all parties concerned".

(According to John Van Beal, writing in 1904, this is the year in which the Prescott School was built.)

for repairs, the roads \$2500.00, the engine house \$1000.00 (the engine men \$750.00) hose came to \$600.00, interest on town debt was \$2500.00, lock-up repairs \$500.00, and town expenses \$12,000.00, a total of \$30,500.00. And on top of this the town borrowed \$75,000.00 from the state at 6% interest.

The committee on the lockup reported that the present place was unsuitable and recommended that one be fitted up under the Town House,



NORTH MAIN STREET LOOKING SOUTH, AROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

1868

There is a noticeable absence of industrial problems in these records, despite the fact that during this period Randolph was a highly industrialized town. Business and politics at this point in American history were completely disassociated, at least at the local level. One bit of procedure shows the changing scene, however. Although the meetings had been beginning at 9 o'clock for about ten years, the adjourned meetings began to be commonly set at 5. Five in the afternoon was a poor hour for farmers but easier for factory workers and owners.

This year was marked by the largest budget to date. The schools took \$10,000.00, and \$500.00

"Which they think can be done without inconvenience to any of present occupants".

The truancy law was augmented. Those who "shall be convicted of wandering about the streets or in public places" were to be punished according to the ordinance of 1865. The town bought 15 acres of land on the "West side of North Street between it and the Dighton and Somerset Railway". Though no specific mention was made of it, this sounds like the old poor house farm. A. B. French resigned from the School Committee, and W. E. Jewett in an elaborate and flowery letter to the Selectmen thanked them but declined to serve.

1869

The meeting assembled at 9 and continued to



vote rising budgets. The schools cost \$11,000.00 this year, roads \$3000.00, the town debt took \$5000.00, the expense \$17,500, the engine men and repairs called for \$2400.00, a new engine house in East Randolph plus a "hearse house" cost \$1700.00. The total expenditures this year were \$40,600.00. The school committee had another resignation.

1870

Schools \$10,000.00, repairs \$1000.00, highways \$5000.00, town expense \$17,000.00, town debt \$5000.00, fire department \$2450.00.

It was voted to pay one half the expense of building three reservoirs, one at East Randolph, one at South Randolph, "one at Baptist Village, so-called" providing the citizens pay one half. This was a result of fire department urging.

It was voted that no ale, porter, strong beer or lager beer be sold in town.

1871

Schools \$12,500.00, highways \$9500.00, town expense \$17,000.00, engine men \$3500.00, town debt \$5000.00.

A touch of novelty comes into the rather monotonous annals of the town at this point. Mr. J. White Belcher arose in this meeting to read a communication handed to him. While not presented in the elaborate detail that marked the donation of Stetson Hall, the substance of the letter was a bequest of \$50,000.00 from the family and heirs of Royal Turner, Esq. for the purposes of "Establishing a Free Public Library and building a suitable edifice". The town voted to accept the donation and appointed a committee to draw up suitable resolutions. A familiar pattern in history was being followed, the patronage of culture by persons of wealth, a pattern which may be destroyed in America in our time by the growing difficulty of amassing large fortunes and the tendency of the government to take over cultural agencies.

For the first time the matter of sidewalks appears in the records. \$250.00 was voted to put sidewalks on Union Street.

An interesting picture of the growth of the town from farming village to industrial suburb can be made by using the items of the newly voted by-laws as a mosaic.

"No person shall swim or bathe in any of the waters within the limits of said town so as to be ex-

posed in a nude state to the view of any person passing, or being on any railroad or any street or any dwelling house in this town.

"No one shall obstruct a sidewalk by idling or lounging or remain about the doors of a place of business.

"No person shall at any time explode firecrackers, torpedoes, or other explosive articles or discharge any firearms, cannon or swivel in any street or other place where the public shall have a right to pass.

"No goats or cattle may be pastured in the streets even with rope."

"No person shall deface property by breaking, daubing or cutting." There was also a "post no bills" law with a \$20.00 penalty for violation. It was the legal duty of teachers to report any damage to school property or playgrounds.

"No person shall extinguish any street light without authority." This ruling is baffling to the historian. Electric street lights were not installed until after 1893, and there is no mention in any town records of the installation of kerosene or gas lamps. It hardly seems that the town would pass a by-law forbidding a man to put out the light before his own home. Perhaps youths were extinguishing such private lights without the owner's consent.

Opposition, inexplicable at this date, developed over the town's acceptance of the report of the committee on the Turner Library. It was voted to accept the report and the donation 193-86. The selectmen were authorized to buy a plot of land. The donors were to name a self-perpetuating board of trustees. \$25,000.00 was given for the building, \$10,000.00 to equip it, and \$15,000.00 was to be invested in 7% notes to the town. The income from this was to be used for heat, fixtures, insurance and replenishment of the library. Should the town fail its responsibilities, the \$15,000.00 was to go to Harvard College. The communication setting forth these terms was signed by Seth Turner and Royal W. Turner.

1872

The January meeting voted that the town express itself in opposition to the acquisition of Brookline to Boston. The third item in the warrant for the January 18 meeting was of great importance to the present day dwellers of this neighborhood. It read, "To see what action the Town will take in



relation to the proposed division of the Town of Randolph as petitioned for by E. A. Holbrook et al". After Daniel Howard had been elected moderator, a vote on dividing the town was taken, with 264 yeas and 460 nays. A further vote was called for a committee of five to be appointed by the moderator to bring in the names of a committee of twenty-five to oppose division in the legislature. Nearly nine score years had gone by and South Precinct was suffering the same pains that the old Middle precinct of Braintree had known when Randolph was seeking separation. Now it was Randolph's turn to make every effort to retain territory and taxpayers.

A vote was passed to the effect that "our representative use every means in his power to vote against the division of the town, and if he can't do it, he be requested to resign and another be elected in his place". But the efforts of L. F. Wild, representative, as well as the twenty five appointed, were useless. The legislature looked with kindly eye on the request of the East Village people, and Holbrook was incorporated within a few weeks. (April 1, 1872.)

Thus we have seen, over a period of years, a settlement formed in the second decade of the 18th century, set off as a precinct in 1727, as a town in 1793, and divided into two towns in 1872. Small bits of territory, "a goar of land" was lost in the very early days to Stoughton, and again a bit when the present Avon line was established. Possibly the time may come when another division will be made. At least Randolph's attenuated distribution of population along Main Street makes this possible.

Schools, \$7000.00, plus \$300.00 for Stetson High School. Repairs \$500.00, highways \$2500.00, new roads \$1000.00, town expense \$23,000.00, repair of engines \$1500.00. The Road commissioner was paid \$2.00 a day. The first mention of an item which was to continue for many years occurs here, \$100 for the decoration of soldiers' graves.

It was voted that the selectmen appoint special officers to serve at "Royal Grove" on such occasions as it was used for picnics. This was probably the picnic grounds near Great Pond later known as "Roberts Grove". The selectmen were also made agents for the town of Randolph in dealing with the Town of Holbrook.

1873

The newly-formed town of Holbrook took \$15,000.00 of the money borrowed from the state (assumed responsibility for the debts) and the Randolph selectmen transferred real estate lying in Holbrook to the town of Holbrook.

Another link with the past was broken at this meeting. For many years it had been the custom to post the warrant at "three places of religious worship". It was now voted to post the warrant at five public places. The separation of Church and State was coming a full circle from the day when the members of the Congregational Church were the body politics and the church building served as the meeting place where the secular affairs of the community were settled. The Puritan influence was now no more than an influence.

Several interesting by-laws were passed at this meeting. The truant officer was instructed to take any truant to the school to which he or she belonged and deliver the delinquent to the teacher thereof. Another by-law ungrammatically tells of the breakdown of the authority of the family. "The School committee shall assign to public institutions of instruction children who are habitual truants, or who by reason of neglect, crime, drunkenness, or other vices of parents, or from orphanages, who are growing up without salutary parental control and education". Further, horses were not permitted to go at an immoderate or unreasonable rate.

Schools got \$7000.00, and repairs were \$500.00. Town expense and reduction of the debt totalled \$13,000.00. New roads and road repairs were high, at \$8500.00 during the year. \$400.00 for Stetson High School was paid out of dog licenses. A sidewalk from the Old Colony R. R. to Main Street was \$500.00. Engine men were paid \$1500.00, and \$100.00 was set aside for decoration of soldiers' graves, to be expended by Capt. Horace Niles Post 110, G. A. R.

1874

Little of interest happened this year except that a memorial was voted for Charles Sumner "fitted to keep his character in good services for the minds of future generations".

Schools \$8000.00. Town expense and debt \$15,000.00. Roads \$2500.00 plus \$1600.00 to widen Main St. Repairs to Stetson Hall \$500.00, Stetson High School \$500.00, engine men \$1800.00, soldiers' graves \$100.00.



1875

The further appearance of Irish names on the list of town officials, William E. E. McMahon, and C. McCarty, shows that this racial strain was taking its place in the ruling group. It was voted that a town officer should receive pay for the use of his team when on town service in the limits of the town. W. E. Jewell moved that the town make a plan for the "erection and maintenance of street lamps". A sum of not more than \$1500.00 was voted for a bust or painting of the late Col. Royal Turner, to be placed in the library building. \$100.00 was voted for the transcription of the ancient records of Braintree. For the first time it was mentioned that the selectmen be empowered to serve as a board of health. The library was completed at a cost of \$40,000.00, and the Turner family, in giving the town the deed, enclosed a check for \$10,000.00. The deed is a complicated instrument and anyone interested in its detail may find it in the town records for 1875, pages 475 ff.

Schools cost \$7650.00, Stetson High School was up to \$1000.00, town expense was \$10,000.00 and the debt was \$5000.00. Roads were \$6000.00, and the engine men \$1800.00.

1876

It was voted that the Selectmen deal with the matter of the Salt Marsh, the property which was the source of the Coddington donation.

Schools \$7600.00, Stetson High School \$1000.00, town expense \$8000.00, debt \$300.00, engine men \$2400.00. It was a hard winter.

1877

A quiet year. Charles Farnham was made town clerk; the retiring officers were thanked for their service. The town voted to permit for burial purposes the use of land enclosed for burying grounds on North Street; one plot to be called Central Cemetery, the other to be called St. Mary's.

Schools \$7600.00, town expense \$8000.00, debt \$3000.00, Stetson High School \$950.00, Engine men \$1100.00, soldiers' graves \$100.00.

1878

Another uneventful twelve months. The selectmen were voted \$1000.00 to use for the employment of day and night police. \$500.00 was voted

for the library. It was decided that the poor should have their choice of physicians in Randolph. (One wonders if there were behind the scenes struggles on the part of physicians and patients.) A vote of thanks and \$20.00 was given to Daniel Howard for his services as moderator. \$3000.00 was appropriated for a reservoir near the factory of J. Winsor Pratt.

Town expense \$8000.00, schools \$8000.00, debt \$3000.00, Stetson \$1250.00, roads \$5000.00, engine men \$2400.00, soldiers' graves \$100.00.

1879

Then highway districts still existed at this time. The annual meeting, as always, included the list of jurors. The April meeting on a motion by John Dooley, voted that "the heartfelt thanks of the people of Randolph be extended to the inhabitants of the town of Holbrook, for their assistance now twice rendered by their steam fire engine". The constables were urged to bear down on drunkenness. "Intemperance has greatly increased under the encouragement of liquor licenses and the evil is recognized not only by the humblest citizens but is regarded and spoken of by all who visit our town".

Schools \$9000.00, Stetson High School \$1250.00, town expense \$8000.00, debt \$5000.00, roads \$3000.00 widening South and Mill Streets \$4000.00, graves \$100.00, doctors \$75.00, and Library \$500.00.

1880

Hiram Alden returned to office, and with his precise handwriting fulfilled the function of Town Clerk. A committee was appointed to inquire about joining with the towns of Holbrook and Braintree in securing a common superintendent of schools. As in the previous year the county town clerks met to register the vote for representative.

Schools \$7750.00, Stetson High School \$1200.00, repairs \$750.00, town expense \$8000.00, debt \$5000.00, roads \$4000.00, engine men \$1800.00, plus \$500.00 incidental expense, soldiers' graves \$100.00, Turner Library \$500.00. J. B. Thayer received \$10.00 for his services as moderator.

1881

Intemperance continued to give trouble, and \$500.00 was voted for enforcing the law concerning the sale of intoxicating liquors. A new steam en-



gine and hose carrier was voted "because of large and destructive fires", and \$6000.00 appropriated for purchase. Perhaps the Randolph people were tired of being Holbrook's poor relations. A modern note was sounded when the May 31st meeting was dissolved because only 10 voters were present. A 6th class apothecary's license was voted to Franklin Porter.

Schools \$7800.00, Stetson High School \$1250.00, repairs \$300.00, town expense \$10,000.00, debt \$5000.00, roads \$4000.00, incidental fire department expense \$500.00, engine men \$1000.00, graves \$100.00, library \$500.00.

1882

Interesting by-laws were considered at the annual meeting, some being approved, others defeated. "No person shall coast with a sled or runners, kick football, or play at any game in which a ball of any kind be used, or throw any stones, or shoot with a bow and arrow on any public streets". Only officials could dig up highways, and they were responsible for lighting lanterns at the place. No one could move a building over a street without the selectmen's permission. No one could put indecent figures or writing on public places. It was made illegal to be rude or insulting in manner, or to use rude language in public places.

Defeated were motions against hunting, fishing, skating, playing ball and firing off firearms on the Sabbath Day and swearing at, or threatening an officer. Possibly this last was occasioned by the reflection that the officials time would be too thoroughly taken up by prosecuting drunks.

Schools \$7800.00, Stetson High School \$1500.00, repairs \$900.00, roads \$3000.00 improvements around Stetson Hall \$1100.00. Town expense \$16,000.00 (the increase was due to more alms, and the growing need of the indigent Civil War Veterans.) Debt \$5000.00, engine men \$100.00, fire department \$8000.00, Reserve \$1000.00, sidewalks \$1350.00, library \$500.00.

1883

For the first time in the records an adjourned meeting was called in the evening. In order to avoid this in the future it was voted to call the spring and fall meetings at 8 A. M. A somewhat colorless year.

\$8450.00 was voted for schools including \$1350.00 for Stetson High. Repairs for Stetson High \$900.00, Stetson Hall \$800.00, roads \$2300.00, town expense, \$9500.00, debt \$7000.00, physicians \$50.00, graves \$100.00, guideposts \$100.00. This was an economy-minded meeting, apparently bent on reducing the debt and keeping expenses down.

1884

For the first time in Randolph history the pen was laid aside. There is a formal entry in indelible pencil.

School expenditures were kept low, at \$7250.00. Stetson High School got \$1200.00 and \$750.00 for repairs. Roads \$2300.00, plus \$300.00 for Union Street and \$700.00 for sidewalks. Town expenses jumped to \$13,000.00 and \$5000.00 was paid on the debt.

1885

It was voted at this meeting that the town was in favor of a horse railway. \$200.00 was paid to N. E. Knights and James Curtis for Civil War service. (On pg. 681 of this volume there is the formal list of Civil War veterans.)

Schools \$8050.00, repairs \$1150.00, roads \$2700.00, alms \$1000.00, sidewalks \$750.00, fire department \$1980.00, expense of Braintree records \$250.00, medical attention for poor \$300.00, town expense \$12700.00, debt \$3000.00.

1886

The major event of this year was the formation of a board of Water Commissioners in which Randolph joined with Holbrook and together with the Braintree Water Supply Co. authorized a \$100,000.00 loan. This sum, the largest ever to appear on the town's books, was voted after proceedings which filled pages with legal technicalities. There were 113 yeas and 2 nays.

Schools \$8000.00, Stetson High School \$2000.00, roads \$3000.00, town expenses \$12,200.00, debt \$2000.00, law enforcement \$200.00, physicians \$300.00, keeper of lock-up \$100.00, graves \$100.00, moderator \$20.00.

1887

It was voted that the corporate seal be in the form of a circle with the writing, "Town of Randolph Inc. March 9, 1793". This year laborers em-



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

ployed by the town got \$2.00 a day and \$.25 an hour for snow removal.

Schools \$8000.00, Stetson High School \$2000.00, roads \$3000.00, town expense \$11,600.00, water loan \$3000.00, fire department \$1980.00, graves \$100.00, physicians \$350.00, salary of town clerk and treasurer \$300.00, streets \$900.00, repairs to Stetson Hall \$80.00.

A change is to be noted here; the item of town debt disappears and the item "water loan" takes its place. For a long time we will note the increasing cost of supplying water to the town.

1888

It was voted that there be no private purchase of water from Great Pond. John Rooney was made truant officer.

Schools \$8000.00, Stetson High School \$1650.00, highways \$3000.00 plus \$1300.00 repairs, fire department \$1800.00, town expense \$11,600.00, interest and principal on water loan \$7075.00, hydrants \$2,500.00. A further water loan was proposed and authorized to the sum of \$20,000. Side walks \$500.00. Laborers were to be paid \$2.00 a day.

1889

Schools for this year cost \$8750.00 and Stetson High School \$2000.00. Highways \$200.00, town expenses \$12,600.00, \$1700.00 for engine expense and also twenty-five cents an hour for actual service at fires. Hose carriage \$500.00. Medical care for poor \$350.00. Principal and interest on water loan \$5500.00, hydrants and drinking fountains \$2000.00. Sidewalks \$1200.00, graves \$100.00. Extension of Allen Street \$2500.00. For public improvements, "provided the Randolph Business and Improvement Society spend a like sum". Library \$600.00. "To introduce water to the Town House" \$250.00. Special police \$500.00.

It was proposed that the town have a system of street lights. It was forbidden to take alewives, shad or smelt in the Blue Hill and Norrway Rivers for three years.

1890

Schools \$8880.00, Stetson High School \$2000.00, town expenses \$13,500.00, graves \$100.00, fire department \$1890.00, interest and principal on water loan \$5075.00, hydrants \$2000.00, highways

\$4500.00, repairs to Stetson Hall \$1300.00. Improvement of Liberty and Lafayette Sts. \$3300.00. Improvements as per previous year \$500.00. Library \$500.00, medical care for poor \$350.00.

Electric lights were again proposed and Michael Daley and Patrick McLaughlin were made selectmen.

1891

Schools \$9200.00, including a special instructor in music and drawing. Stetson High School \$2200.00, highways \$4700.00, town expenses \$13,600.00, engine \$1890.00. Improvement of Liberty and North Sts. \$2500.00, odd streets \$700.00, graves \$100.00. Principal and interest on water loan \$7000.00, water service \$2000.00, library \$140.00, roads \$600.00, improvements \$300.00, medical care of poor \$350.00. For Baptist and Congregational clocks \$50.00. For Superintendent of Schools, if Braintree or any adjoining town would do the same \$500.00. Special officers \$500.00.

An interesting expenditure of \$300.00 for a Civil War Bounty is recorded. It was voted "that the moderator appoint a committee of 16 persons with authority to take such measures as they shall deem expedient to celebrate in an appropriate fashion the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the town." Those appointed were J. White Belcher, John V. Thayer, Hiram C. Alden, Rufus A. Thayer, Patrick M. McLaughlin, John H. Field, Seth Mann 2nd, Royal T. Mann, John J. Crawford, John V. Beal, Herbert H. Guinan, Charles G. Hathaway, Henry A. Belcher, John B. Wren, Hugh J. Mulloy. The name of John T. Flood was later added.

1892

Schools \$6467.00, Stetson High School \$1840.00, highways \$5112.00, streets \$552.00, graves \$100.00, engine \$1575.00. Interest on water loan \$4800.00, sinking fund \$3575.00, water service \$2000.00, bounty \$200.00. West Corner School (new building) \$1500.00, sick and poor \$290.00. Special police \$375.00. Boiler for Alms House \$400.00.

The odd numbers and relatively small appropriations indicate that the town had one of those moods of economy which some times seize civic gatherings, or that the financial stringency that was to culminate in the panic of 1893 was already being felt. It was voted to finance the centennial celebration by a sum not to exceed one tenth of one per-



cent of the assessed valuation. New names were added to the committee: Peter B. Hand, Francis Belcher, John Peach, Chester Howard, J. Windsor Pratt, Allen A. Belcher, Asa P. French, John W. Willard, Michael A. Donovan.

#### 1893 — THE CENTENNIAL FAIR

Schools \$8226.00, Stetson High School \$2200.00, highways \$4500.00, town expenses \$10,760.00, fire department \$2200.00, graves \$100.00. Principal and interest on water loan \$7375.00, water service \$2000.00, bounty \$300.00, sidewalks \$600.00, medical care of poor \$358.00, clerk \$50.00.

This year's expenditures totalled \$38,669.00. While they represent a decrease from the \$42,050.00 spent in 1889, and are considerably under the total of \$47,865.00 voted three years later in 1896, they are far in excess of the sum of \$9500.00 for the year 1849, when we began our tabulation of town expense, and they are a far cry from 1793 when the year's expense was \$500.00, and from the April day in 1728 when it was voted to "raise ten pounds to Defray the Necessary Charges of the Year Insuing". There are of course, a number of reasons behind this rising cost of government; one being that general increase in prices which has been going on for centuries. But one important factor is the increasing demand on the part of the citizen for more services from the local government. The early citizen did not expect such careful protection of life and property; schools above the elementary level were hardly considered necessary; many offices were filled without compensation. Later we shall see how this principle of more services from local government has developed even further.

An example of the growing intricacy of town function is to be found in the problem facing the voters in 1893, the matter of electric lighting for the town. Permission for the N. E. Telephone and Telegraph Company to erect poles in town had been granted, and this apparently had stimulated the street lighting project. At a special meeting on October 26 Asa P. French moved that a contract be signed with Charles Doughty for the electric lighting of the highways at a cost not to exceed \$2692.00. A committee had been working on the problem and had presented a good report. They had examined the street lighting systems in North Abington, Braintree, Danvers and Peabody, and their conclusion was that the business was of too

recent origin for the figures to tell much. They recommended that if the town should find it inexpedient to build its own plant, that power should be purchased of Mr. Charles Doughty, owner of the plant already in town. Mr. Doughty said, "I will furnish and keep lighted from dark to 12:15 each and every night of the year, and winter mornings from six till daylight, 21 1000 candle power lamps for the sum of \$70.00 each per annum". He also gave figures for a number of 25, 50 and 75 candle power lamps to light the Town Hall. A three year contract was signed with him, the town liking private ownership better than municipal responsibility.

Two full pages of names of special police for the Centennial are recorded. It may be of interest here to note the town offices which may be compared with the list one hundred years before.

Town Constable  
Ballot Clerks  
Moderator  
Checkers of Voting Lists  
Assistant Inspectors of Voting List and  
Ballot Box  
Tellers  
Town Clerk and Treasurer  
Three Selectmen to serve as Assessors  
and Overseers of the Poor  
Superintendent of School Committee  
Three Auditors  
Seven Constables  
Three Fence Viewers  
Three Fish Wardens  
Trustee of Stetson High Fund  
Water Commissioner  
Collector of Taxes  
Surveyors of Wood and Bark  
Pound Keeper  
Field Driver  
Jurors

It is interesting to note how many of the old offices were still maintained, although there was a vastly diminished need for their functioning. The selectmen were to serve as agents and attorneys for the town in all matters except the water supply where the water commissioner was to be agent.

Another difference between the records in the early days and those at the time of the centennial is the increasingly impersonal nature of the latter annals. The color and individuality of the early



days has gone; the business of running a town has become more complex, and hence the business of professionals. Of interest is the increasing appearance of Irish names. It may be that a future historian will note a similar increase in Italian names or patronymics indicating other ancestry. It is also interesting to note that the Civil War, though gone, was not forgotten. Bounties were still being paid and the G. A. R. Post was an important factor socially.

Perhaps the best way to get a picture of Randolph at the time of the town's one hundredth birthday is to leave the compact records of town expense and politics and examine a year in detail. We do not describe the Centennial celebration itself; that has been done very well in the published proceedings. Out of the yellowed newspapers in the Turner Library, and from the reminiscences of old residents, therefore, we make our next chapter.

## *The Year of the World's Fair . . . 1893*

RANDOLPH was not alone in celebrating 1893 as a year of historical importance, for this was the year of the great Columbian Exposition in Chicago, in which the whole nation, somewhat belatedly it is true, celebrated the discovery of America four centuries before in 1492. Therefore it may be of interest, in picturing our town in the year of its centennial, to use as background the nation itself.

It is very easy to find the colors for a historical portrait of this New England town as it was fifty years ago, for, caught in the pages of the "Randolph Register and Holbrook News" are the observations and opinions and reportings of its highly able and individualistic editor Daniel H. Huxford, still remembered at Martha's Vineyard, the place of his birth. More accurate than the keenest memory, with reading flavor that is still pleasant, the Register affords ample material for our sketch of the vanished town of yesterday. From the crinkly pages we will take items, great and small, that were newsworthy at the time of Randolph's one hundredth birthday. Perhaps a fuller description of the "Randolph Register and Holbrook News" will be of value. The heading was a conventional blazing sun, from the center of which a lassie in a tam o' shanter looked coyly out at the world. The two right hand columns of the front page bore the masthead, the selectmen's notices and the school committee's notices. The paper was a four page affair, measuring 28" x 22" as against the present day 23" x 16" dimensions. The stock was better stuff than today's. Standing advertisements were: Wales Brothers Improved Patent Pumps, Gove's Boston Express, Ralph Houghton Undertaker, Por-

ter's Drug Store, Breitlings Tailor Shop, Piper's Cider Mill, Crossley's Newspaper Stand, and since vanity is an ancient trait, Gilman's Hair Dressing Rooms. The remainder of the front page is given over to stories, jokes and articles.

Page two carried the editorials, and local news. The Editor was a personality and no mistake, and at least one of his pungent obituaries would have got him sued and heavily today. His local news stories, and one or two sentence items, are living reading now for all the dust of fifty years. He had two distinct styles, one racy, colloquial, pithy; the other formal and flowery, and he reads well in both. Ads, too, have this page. Page three was Holbrook news and Brockton letters. The last page was taken by news of the world, and the coverage, while rather brief in terms of inches, was surprisingly international and cosmopolitan. The ads on this page were largely of patent medicines, "Swamproot", Hood's Sarsaparilla, Syrup of Figs, Kickapoo Indian Sagwa, with its cut of a bearded Grand Army man plucked from the brink of the grave by this notable panacea, and many others, ad nauseam. Lydia Pinkham's and Beecham's pills made irregular appearance on various pages.

On January 11, a cold snap set in, with the thermometer dropping to -10°. Columbus stamps were on sale at the Post Office on January 7. Across the ocean, a German scientist anticipated the camera cranks of today by announcing that he had invented a method of color photography. The cold grew and in the middle of the month the owner of Wallace's Market had his boots frozen to the floor and had to be pried loose with a



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shovel. Ex-President Hayes died suddenly, and there was a coasting accident in Lonsdale, R. I., that cost eight lives. The Rebekahs entertained one hundred guests at their installation. A representative of the Canadian government told officials at New York that the talk of annexation to the United States was foolish; the Canadians would never hear of it. The grocers formed an alliance to cope with dead beats, and the Editor heartily approved. "It is as much as the grocer can do, these times, to support himself and get a decent living." Gladstone

are listed elsewhere. Ten more names were added later and the sum set aside for the celebration was "not to exceed one tenth of one percent of the assessed valuation". John V. Beal was elected orator of the day.

Two items appearing about this time remind us of the similarity and the difference in problems of today and yesterday. There was a serious tenement shortage in Randolph in 1893 and rents were difficult to obtain, a condition which we find at the present time. The reader who examines these pages



NORTH MAIN STREET ABOUT 1900, SHOWING THE OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH AT THE LEFT.

was introducing his Home Rule Bill in parliament, and the National Irish League of America, said it was only "a mass of verbiage". Burglars broke into the Turner home, and the residence of Thomas P. Jones. "It is well to see that the doors and windows are secure . . . for no one knows when the burglar cometh for a midnight call."

The citizens were taking thought for the Centennial Celebration in July, for at the spring meeting the moderator was empowered to appoint a committee of sixteen persons, "with authority to take such measures as they shall deem expedient to celebrate in an appropriate fashion the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the town". Their names

at the 200th anniversary of the town will hereby be reminded that during the Second World War the government forbade new housing projects costing more than \$500 without special permission, so that Randolph was greatly in need of new houses in 1943. The other item seems almost ludicrous in terms of present day standards. The Giant Cruiser "Indiana", named after the native state of President Harrison, was launched. This "giant cruiser" was of 4200 tons displacement and would rate in fuelpower with a modern destroyer. In contrast with our battleship "X" rated at 35,000 tons, but actually displacing more than 50,000, the mighty warship of that day seems a toy of war.



March was an active month. A casual comment on the street resulted in a gathering of 80 persons, who elected John Thayer president and Samuel Capen chorister, with a view to producing the operetta "The Haymakers". One is impressed, on studying the year 1893, with the importance of music in the community life. The sacred and secular music of the times was publicised with an amount of space that seems to indicate that these performances were largely attended and well appreciated. There was no radio, and people either went to Boston, listened to their own concert courses, or made music themselves. The musical ear of the town is obliquely revealed by a comment in the town meeting which claimed that the town clock should be oiled, as it "squawked" too much.

On the 13th of March Charles Doughty's harness factory on Warren Street collapsed. Sympathetic citizens at once raised a sum of \$500 for him, an excellent vestige of old New England's community spirit. On the 25th of March the Old Stoughton Musical Society voted to go to the World's Fair and give a concert.

April Fool's Day was marked by the news of a new Electric Car Franchise which was to run along Liberty and North Streets to Braintree. The brand of publicity which followed during the year may have lead the citizens to think that the day of the proposal was fitly chosen. Easter was ushered in by a sunrise service held by the Congregational Young People.

The New York, New Haven and Hartford proudly announced a new five hour train service to New York. We are in the habit of thinking of speed as a development of our day, but it is well for us to remember that 1893 was the year in which the famous locomotive 999, her seven-foot driving wheels whirling, raced over a 14 mile level stretch on the New York Central's tracks at a pace of 112 miles an hour, a speed no train has yet made a scheduled rate. As a matter of fact, Dr. Ebenezer Alden, writing his memoirs in 1856, noted that the journey from Randolph to Boston by steam cars was a matter of half an hour. Over ninety years of mechanical progress has succeeded in adding about fifteen minutes to that rate.

The April 8th issue was interesting. Horace Niles Post 110 of the G. A. R. held a big Camp-fire. Fast Day was still alive in New England, and was observed on April 6. It was announced that

there were 580 scholars in the Randolph school system in 1892. Mr. Charles Doughty, undeterred by his disaster, announced that he would give the town an electric light system. In Fargo, N. D., the Women's Christian Temperance Union invaded a number of "blind pigs"—illicit drinking places. The habitues of the saloons were cads as well as sots, and they beat up the ladies and cast them out. One senses a little glee behind the impersonal sentences of the item. If they had stayed home where women belonged they would have been unharmed.

Spring was coming on, and Amos Stone of Allen Street was ready to sell Royal New Mail bicycles, (all ball bearing) last year's model for \$115. Somewhat later Elmer Paine, loyal to the Pope bicycle, proclaimed that he could ride from Tower Hill to Boston on an average of 1 hour and 10 minutes. On April 29 the Register began carrying the scores of the major league ball games. In the same issue it was noted that no date had been set for the trial of Miss Lizzie Borden of Fall River who was darkly accused of foul play with an axe. The caravels, built by the Spanish government as duplicates of Columbus' fleet, docked safely in New York April 25, after a rough passage.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of May 1, President Cleveland pressed the golden telegraph key that opened the Columbian Exposition. His action started some of the machinery and the fountains. The Register gave such space to a description of the exposition, and noted that not all the buildings of the foreign countries were completed. "France, noble France, is perhaps most tardy of all." Some of the general delay was due to the most severe winter in the remembrance of the building trades, and heavy snows broke some roofs.

On the 9th of May Lizzie Borden pleaded not guilty, but the main sensation in the news was the execution of a certain Carlyle Harris, who had been found guilty of murdering his young wife. Poor taste in matters of this sort is nothing new in journalism, and the Register carried a long story, giving farewell interviews with father and mother that were maudlin and sentimental. The details of the execution were given with a precision worthy of a present day tabloid.

Memorial Day was beautiful and as early as 6 A. M., members of Horace Niles Post were busy with the preparations for the parade and only two



comrades succumbed to the fatigue of the exercises. On June 7, Edwin Booth, long the king of the American stage, died a paralytic.

Behind the splendor and display of the World's Fair, an economic storm was brewing, which was destined to burst in the panic of 1893. On June 10 news came of the failures of banks in New York; Two Rivers and Manitococ, Wisconsin, Spokane and Toledo. There were personal failures in Philadelphia and Binghamton while Chicago banks stayed open all night to satisfy the long lines of depositors before their doors.

The editor of the Register waxed warm in the June 17 issue championing the cause of electric street lighting, announcing that Stetson Hall would be electrically lighted for the Centennial Celebration July 19, and scolding the townspeople for their poor showing at the concert of the Bellini orchestra. The orchestra, after playing all year for nothing, got so little in their silver collection that they barely had enough to pay their bills.

On June 24th, Hon. J. White Belcher, chairman of the Centennial Committee, announced the great day. He said that it was originally scheduled for early in June but for "Good and sufficient reasons" the date had been set at July 19. The big news of the week was the acquittal of Lizzie Borden. At the verdict of not guilty, "cheers that might have been heard half a mile went up". Lizzie bowed her head on the rail, "and the tears came where they had refused to come for many a long day". Said the dispatch prophetically, "Lizzie, the outcast of a year, is the heroine of today. But until the mystery of the murder is cleared, the finger of suspicion will always be pointed at her". Of all the events of 1893 perhaps none will linger longer in memory than those chronicled in the immortal jingle which begins

"Lizzie Borden took an axe  
And gave her mother forty whacks."

The Glorious Fourth received little attention this year, being overshadowed by the coming Anniversary. In the July 1st issue, the advertisements were of greater interest than the news columns. H. H. Guinan, of the Boston Clothing Company, announced that tickets for the Centennial Dinner, price one dollar, could be obtained at the store of P. H. McLaughlin on Main Street. A natty cut, made by the Boston Patent Pants Company, adorned an advertisement of bicycle races on the

19th. The proposed Randolph Street Railway Company published its intentions in the legal columns. "The day of the Fourth passed off very quietly and patriotically. In the morning the Elliotts, Randolph's really excellent baseball team, defeated the Orient Heights club, and the St. Augustines of South Boston. The visitors thought they had a soft snap, but found out differently. Now the boys would do well to try the Brocktons, and vanquish them." In the national news, Peary's polar expedition was the chief item of interest.

Noble eagles, with spread wings and out-thrust beaks, headed the announcements of the doings of the Centennial in the issue of the 13th. The officers, Hon. J. White Belcher, president; Capt. Hiram C. Alden, secretary; Patrick H. McLaughlin, treasurer; John V. Beal, orator, and John Peach, chief marshal, together with a host of subcommittee members, presented the program at length. They said, "The committee announces that in all matters their aim has been to prepare a celebration by the people and for the people, and no suggestion even which seemed worthy of consideration has passed unheeded. . . . They further say that the committee have earnestly endeavored to arrange for a dignified pleasurable and democratic celebration of the hundredth birthday of the town, and they confidently hope that all citizens who have the interest and welfare of the town at heart, and who see in these great events the future and much that is lasting, rather than the idle show of a passing hour, will enter with a spirit of enthusiasm and town loyalty into the celebration of an event whose recurrence not even our children can expect to behold".

Editor Huxford got out his largest type for the story of the Centennial. "Randolph," blares the headline, "Crowned With Roses and Exquisite Flowers on 100th Birthday Anniversary, July 19, 1893. Flags Waved—Bunting Adorned—Whistles Blew—Cannon Boomed a Salute of One Hundred Guns. 15,000 People in Town on That Day". We shall examine this day rather carefully, for in many ways it stands in contrast with our 150th Anniversary. It is evident from the whole feel and quality of the accounts, that the day in 1893 had an importance which its counterpart in 1943 did not have. Perhaps this is because the later celebration was set against a grim and bloody background of world events that made a local celebration seem a side issue, perhaps it is because, to use the worn



but meaningful phrase, the times have changed, and no more is there possible the old quality of town spirit. Shining through the accounts and speeches there is a pride of place and achievement that seems almost naive, but which is a pleasant contrast with our present mood of cynical honesty.

A violent thundershower struck the day before, but a rainbow near sunset gave promise of a good day, and the promise was fulfilled. "The anniversary day," notes Editor Huxford, "began as nearly as possible at 1 A. M., and was nearly as noisy as the Fourth. At 4:24 the brass cannon of the Waltham Independent Saluting Battery awoke the echoes and forbade further sleep, to which was added the ringing of the church and school bells, the blowing of the factory whistles, and the general din of a celebrating community." . . . "With each arriving electric car from Brockton, and the steam cars from Boston and way stations, came vast throngs of friends, wishing to tread once more their native heath, and grasp the hand of the visiting stranger, as well as the hand of old and true friends of the dusty past. They wore bright smiles, — all of them, for they could not do otherwise. The town was in gala attire, the citizens were proud and happy and knew of no reason why those who came to see us should not be equally so".

At 8:30 the crowd gathered at the corner of Warren and Main to see the bicycle race for the braided front blue bicycle suit, and promptly at 10, headed by drummers, the public schools, five hundred strong, led by Principals Molloy, West, and Belcher, and the teachers, marched to Stetson Hall where they sang the Centennial Ode, composed by Hugh J. Molloy, A. M. "The march to the hall was one of the prettiest seen for many a day, the girls wearing white dresses with red, white and blue sashes, and as they stood there, grouped in front of the building, it was a sight to the thousands of people gathered near, never witnessed before, and it will be a long time ere they see the like again." At 10:30 the foot race was held, with Michael F. Hand the victor. Immediately following the race Marshal Peach started his parade, on time. Observed the editor approvingly of this feat, "Cool heads, and business methods tell in the long run". The procession was constituted of:

First Division  
Platoon of Police  
The Marshal and his Aides

Baldwin's Cadet Band  
Capt. Horace Niles Post 110 G. A. R.  
Waltham Independent Battery  
Rising Star Lodge No. 67, I. O. O. F.  
Young Man's Catholic Lyceum Association  
President of the Day and Invited  
Guests in carriages  
Second Division  
Randolph Brass Band  
Randolph Fire Department  
Board of Engineers  
Firemen and Apparatus

There followed wagons and carriages of practically every merchant and business man in town. The parade marched to West Corners and back to Central Square.

Dinner was served at 1:30 in the banquet tent in the Ephraim Wales lot on South Main to about 500 people. Grace was said by the chaplain of the day, Rev. Henry A. Walsh, curate of St. Mary's Church. It was somewhat past the appointed time when Hon. J. White Belcher made his address, a superb example of the lush phrasing of the period. Principal Malloy was ready with another centennial poem. Of the oration the account says, "The oration, delivered by the orator of the day, John V. Beal, Esq., showed careful writing, much study, and was finely delivered. Mr. Beal, unable to use the whole of his manuscript consequently read interesting portions to facilitate time. He occupied about an hour and a quarter".

A number of toasts and addresses by visitors of note were made and letters of regret were read from those who could not attend. Leading the list of absent dignitaries was Hon. Grover Cleveland, President of the United States. The event of the evening was the Grand Ball in Stetson Hall, brilliantly lighted with electricity. The orchestra played till nine and then Floor Director Asa P. French, with Mrs. French led the grand march. The modern chronicler cannot hope to catch the spirit of the evening as did the old editor: "The attendance was ample to meet every obligation, the hours flew rapidly in the dreamy haze of music and terpsichorean revelry, and when the last sound had echoed and re-echoed through the historic old hall, the centennial celebration was over, and the new century was begun".

Other events were taking place while the for-



mal ceremonies were going on. The Elliotts beat the Holbrooks by the lop-sided score of 18-1, though "Crawford, the Boston College pitcher, pitched for the Holbrooks". The Elliotts line-up:

Fennell	3b	Benway	cf
D. Hand	ss	M. Hand	1b
Kiley	lf	McAuliffe	c
Rudderham	2b	H. Hand	rf
	Buzzell	p	

Features of the game were, "the batting of Michael Hand, the base running and second base play of Rudderham, and the battery work of the Elliotts".

Odds and ends of information. "The banquet tent blew down the night before and was only put up an hour before the time of dining." The decorations were outstanding, "surpassing those of towns five times (Randolph's) size". "The fireworks in the evening, by the munificence of Jno J. Crawford, were the finest ever seen here." The throngs in the evening were marvellous, and included more than two hundred bicycles. Mann Bros. thoughtfully provided all the school celebrants with a bunch of sweet peas. "It is estimated that 15,000 people were in town; of these the Brockton Street Railway carried 7,778. One car carried 1,483, and three regular cars took in 4000 fares." At the story's end the editor rhapsodized: "The day was perfect, the people praised us without stint, saying it went beyond everything imagined, and the result generally was one grand ovation; delightful, satisfying, and wishing for nothing better."

Life settled back to its normal course after the great day. At Tower Hill Robert Dickey picked 300 boxes of strawberries from a quarter acre. The Elliotts kept on winning. An editorial called attention to the fact that Randolph was a pioneer town in the boot and shoe industry about 1800, and was the headquarters for the buyers of the world. Meanwhile the depression, initiated by the failure of the National Cordage Company back in April, was deepening with terrifying rapidity. The late July failure of the Wisconsin Fire and Marine Bank of Milwaukee, one of the country's famous private banks, touched off a panic on the New York Stock exchange; three banks in Louisville crashed, the Erie Railroad went into the hands of receivers. Locally the Otis Company's cotton mills in Ware shut down, and Pilling's shoe factory in Lowell; bank and business failures were common all over the country.

The great Cleveland Panic was on, and in the course of that relatively brief but intense depression, the Atchison, Union Pacific, Northern Pacific, and Reading roads, together with other railroads, large and small, went into receivership. 158 National banks failed along with 172 state banks and 177 private institutions. It was in 1893 that Jacob Coxey was organizing the bands of desperate, workless men who early the next year were to march as an "army" to Washington, only to meet the farcical fate of being arrested for trespassing on the grass at the White House. None of the celebrants of the Randolph Centennial realized that as they made merry the economic situation was even more critical than they supposed. They might have fumed after dinner, or at the Grand Ball, about the slowness of President Cleveland to open the special session of Congress he had called the 1st of June to repeal the Sherman Act. They did not know that he had been secretly taken to the yacht of E. C. Benedict in New York harbor for an operation of mouth cancer. Had he died, — and the operation was severe, — the panic would have been infinitely worse.

Undeterred by the hard times, fifteen Randolph men met with the selectmen on the first of August to push for their Randolph Braintree electric car franchise, but little was done. Members of the Old Stoughton Society were warned that they must get their names in at once if they intended to go to Chicago and sing; the cost including the \$15.00 Guaranty Fund allowed, would be forty dollars per person. On Sunday the 7th a "cyclone" blew up, delaying the Brockton cars for three hours, flooding the streets, producing hailstones which broke all the glass in Arnold's greenhouse, "which was unfortunate". Rev. Fr. James J. Keegan purchased several hundred feet of land on North Main Street from Ebenezer Moulton, Esq., as a ground for a new Church. "When the Catholic people of Randolph start out for anything of this kind, they are not satisfied unless they have the best, and is equal if not superior to anything their neighbors might have, and that is where they are right. The best is none too good."

There were rumors that strange men were seen in the Blue Hills, and the editor surmised that the area was to be a park for the city of Boston, which he shrewdly guessed would "result in opening much territory to middle-class people who are looking for homes". Randolph people who finally got under



way for the World's Fair with the Old Stoughton were: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel B. White, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Belcher, Mrs. D. F. Howard, George B. Bryant, Francis W. Packard, Carroll A. Capen and W. Ray Spear. The proposed electric lights for the town were still no more than a proposal. The Winter Course of Lectures were approved; "Our town would indeed be in a sad plight were this elevating and attractive institution (to) be dropped." Unfortunately the band concerts at West Corners which the year before had drawn more than one thousand fares on the cars, were not continued. A curiously modern note was sounded in New York when a number of anarchists or "Reds" endeavored to capture a meeting of the United Hebrew Trades. The disorder was severe. A young man fell off a sail boat and went over Niagara Falls to his death.

The wheels of progress slowed the first week in September. President Hobart of the Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook Railway Co. (still on paper) chided the editor for his comments, and reminded him that times were hard. Mr. Doughty took down the sample electric street lights he had put up. Horace P. Mann, George H. Tileston, and Frank H. Tileston picked 100 quarts of blueberries in the Hanson woods in 12 hours. A third great "blow" came on August 28. "Never did the wind blow as it blew on Tuesday, and if that was the fringe of the storm what must have been the force of the storm itself?" This gale was indeed savage, and struck Georgia and South Carolina with great loss of life. The Register later published an appeal for the people of the devastated Sea Island region.

Item of September 16. "Miss Mary E. Wilkins of this town has been interviewed, and it is given out that she is about to write another story of New England life entitled 'Pembroke.' . . . Miss Wilkins considers it perfectly legitimate for the public to be curious about her literary work, but curiosity of another sort she does not look upon with much favor."

Fall came and the opening of schools, with Stetson High School having eighty-five pupils. Business in Randolph was good, with all factories working, but the editor advised his readers to "believe none of these rosy-hued Boston editorials, until you see the evidence of it around you, and then it will only take half an eye to witness the movement". A special town meeting was held September 14 about the street lights, but adjourned without action. Because of the success of "The Haymakers", the Musi-

cal Society began to think about a winter performance. The following Randolph young people were attending institutions of higher learning: Harvard, James Molloy; Harvard Annex, Blanche Hazard; Wellesley, Nellie Prescott; Boston University, Edith Whalin, Ella Chase; University of Michigan, Ernest Bullock; Technology, Howard Reynolds, Carroll Capen; Boston Latin, Henry Cottle, Frank Granger, Frank Newton; Boston College, Martin Harty; Thayer Academy, Susy Balkam, Abby Alden, Nellie McLaughlin, Dwight Thayer, Cyrus Corliss; Bridgewater, Myra Hunt, Ethel Roberts; St. Mary's, Lillian Dooley.

The leading article on October 7 concerned the \$124,000 in legacies left by Mrs. Annie M. Sweetzer. The Unity Benevolent Society and the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church started their fall work, and with "the usual bustle and stir" the Ladies' Sewing Circle of the Baptist Church held their first fall meeting. The Congregational women doubtless planned the refreshments of the installation of their new pastor, Rev. Charles Hilton, who was to be inducted into his office on November 4th. Announcement was made of a concert to be held in Grand Army Hall on November 6, under the auspices of the Memorial Mission Circle, at which "that Wonderful invention by Edison, the Phonograph, would be displayed and exhibited", and a program given including a whistling solo "and the ever popular laughing song". On October 26 the town voted electric lights.

The November 4th issue saw the Register enter upon the 37th year of its life, twenty of which were under Editor Huxford. Luke Lamson, a local rhymester of the Will Carleton school, celebrated the new lighting system with doggerel. The Republicans won the state elections on the 7th, and the party swept aside all opposition in the national scene in an election marked by "many bloody scenes" with "Riot and Disorder Indulged in at the Polls". The Brockton street railway announced its winter schedule, saying that when times got better more cars would be put on.

The college football season was underway, and apparently the University of Pennsylvania had a rough game, perhaps with Yale, though the rival is not named. Captain MacKaye, when asked about the treatment his men had received said he had no complaint to make. He himself had a bad contusion of the eye from a blow of Mr. Murphy's fist.



Everyone on the field saw Hinkey (the great Yale All-American end?) strike Knipe with no provocation from the latter except that he had made a touchdown. The same player jumped with his knees on Osgood's neck after the latter had called "down". McCrea repeatedly struck Wharton about the face and head and pulled off deliberately the protecting bandages from his swollen and inflamed ear, although doing so caused agonizing pain; but the Pennsylvania team, he said, "accepted these occurrences as unpleasant incidents of an exciting game". With such publicity as this, it is easy to see why, twelve years later, President Roosevelt had to call a committee to save the game.

Thanksgiving was celebrated with a union service at the Congregational Church; and at the Church of the Unity, Mr. Humphreys, the pastor, unintentionally gave out the wrong chapter, which disturbed his people somewhat because they couldn't find it. He said he was very glad to know he had performed one good act by stimulating his people to search the Scripture and read it more carefully. "In Ottumwa, Iowa, a mob lynched one Fred Gustaveson, a child assaulter, hanging him to the stair rail of the courtroom itself with a rope furnished by the child's mother." On the same page the fashion news carried the picture of "a chic hat", a bird with wings out-stretched, perched on a broad

brimmed straw, a creation rather less mad than many of its modern counterparts. The same column commented: "A filigree silver twine holder seems rather a superfluous object. They cost \$20. and hold a five cent ball of twine".

That the depression still was on is shown in the December 2 issue, when the Randolph National bank, founded in 1851 by Col. Royal Turner and others, voted voluntary liquidation. It should be noted, however, that the bank paid two hundred cents on the dollar, according to a present day Randolph banker. An advertisement of the Boston Globe is headed, "Death of Sherlock Holmes. The greatest detective ever known in London — the Exciting Adventure which ended his life". The writer of the ad did not know that the genius of Baker Street was immortal, and that his exasperated creator would have to resurrect him to meet popular clamor. At Stetson Hall there was a lecture, "The World's Fair, or The Wonders of the White City", for those who could not go to Chicago. Luke Lamson made a rhymed plea for a boom. Snow came on December 5 and gave the town a "veritable winter look". The column "for the Fair Sex" showed a "Dainty divan chair", "a pretty screen", and "A Stylish gown", all equally over-ornamented and hideous. Nor should the embroidery trimmed night gown case be omitted.

The depression was taking toll of the poorer people of the town and the leading editorial of December 16 suggested that the various charities of the town ought to care for the "Deserving Poor" and not call a town meeting for that purpose.

The Old Stoughton had its annual sing, but something about the sing must have been displeasing to the Editor, for he sputtered: "The last annual meeting and sing of the Old Stoughton Musical Society combined the sublime and the ridiculous to a wonderful degree. The Randolph people, at least, hope never to see the like again. The old method of management seems to have departed like dew before a morning sun". The bowling league got under way and three gangs of men were busy putting up electric light wire. In Paris the French cabinet passed a resolution that "Anarchists Must Go". At Christmas time there was ice boating on Great Pond. All the Churches held appropriate Christmas services, with large congregations at morning and evening (services). The last day of the year was an inclement Sunday, and so 1893 passed into history.



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



*Annals . . . 1894—1943*

THE period between the centennial and the sesquicentennial need not be treated with such detail as has marked our history up to this point. Many who read these words will recall the events and our aim will be to give a year by year account of Randolph as it developed from a little before the Spanish-American War until just after the First World War. We will make no effort to keep the financial figures, as they may be seen in the town records, and our point of the rising cost of local government has been abundantly proved in the preceding chapters.

In 1894 Randolph and Holbrook had between them no less than 940 persons on Soldiers' Relief. The total climbed as the members of the G. A. R. became older and incapable, in some cases, of self-support. The electric lighting and water piping systems were extended. On December 8, the Randolph and Stoughton selectmen "perambulated" the town line "in search of a stone in Bear Swamp. Owing to the bad condition of the swamp and the weather, the guide was unable to find the bound". But it didn't matter, they reported, as it was on a straight line. Laborers on the town this year were paid "according to the value of their labor". In 1895 it was noted that the "ballot box fails to ring or register after four or five votes have been cast". The town treasurer very carefully noted the expenditure of pennies.

In 1896 Hiram C. Alden resigned as town clerk and was the recipient of a resolution thanking him for his integrity and faithfulness in his exceptionally long term of service. Joseph F. Leahy was made town clerk. His clear penmanship and orderly arrangement of the paragraphs made him a very easy scribe to read, a compliment all Randolph clerks have not deserved. He noted all meetings as "In the year of Our Lord". Moderator John Flood donated his \$20.00 fee to the monument fund.

The meeting this year had a number of matters of interest. A greater rigidity in making people take oath of office began at this time, and notices of meetings were published in *The Randolph Register* and *Holbrook News*. An article empowering the Selectmen to hire special police proved the bone of

contention in the meeting. The moderator declared the motion to be carried, by a hand vote, but after seven voters had arisen to doubt the vote, the motion was lost 77 - 80. C. A. Wales, speaking for the selectmen and engineers of the Fire Department, made a report on the fire alarm system. ". . . For years we have had a very imperfect and unsatisfactory method of giving the alarm in case of fire, depending on the bell in Engine House No. 1 which cannot be heard plain in any direction, or on the church bells, which cannot be reached very quickly, and in the case of fire a long distance away it has caused a long delay and as everybody knows the first few minutes are valuable in case of fire". Following a number of reasons for installation of a system the report concludes, "We are the only town in this part of the State without a fire alarm system. . . . We believe it is policy in going into anything of this kind that the best is cheapest in the end. . . . We have good electric lights, good water works, electric roads, good streets, etc., and shall we be without a fire alarm system?" Like many another impassioned appeal the report was accepted and placed on file.

The town stayed dry in 1899 by a vote of 437 to 313. For the first time the word "macadam" appears in connection with the roads. The sum of \$300.00 was voted for the purpose of the transportation of school children. The W. C. T. U. vainly requested \$500.00 for liquor prosecution. The placing of telephone wire took a good deal of attention. A permit for the Mass. Telephone & Telegraph Co. was revoked because it was not accepted in writing. The company learned its lesson, for the next permit, granted April 11, 1900, was accepted on April 12. There was apparently something of a political fight going on between the Mass. Telephone and Telegraph and the New England Telephone Company which is reflected in the records. The Quincy and Boston Street Railway Co. petitioned for the right to run cars between Liberty St. and Central Sq. A Gamewell Fire Alarm system was purchased for \$2000.00.

In 1901 the conscientious clerk entered the truancy laws of 1879 which had not been previously



recorded. In 1901 permission was granted to lay conduits underground. Family names of early settlers were distinctly in a minority in the records of 1902. In this year the town was dissatisfied with the service of the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railway Co., and voted to procure if possible, better train service and better station accommodation. The Old Colony Street Railway Co. petitioned to put in a car service from Avon Line to West Corners, with a five cent fare from Avon Square to Milton Lower Mills, and a five cent fare from West Corners to Brockton. "A full and free discussion followed the reading of this article, taking up item by item its subject matter". At the close of the discussion it was voted to have a committee of four voters in addition to the selectmen to represent the town at franchise meetings.

Labor costs in 1903 are reflected in the wage scale of \$2.00 a day for a man, \$3.50 for a man and a horse, and a man and two horses \$5.00. The drys maintained a 417-381 lead over the wets in 1903. John V. Beal argued for a separate High School rather than an annex to Stetson Hall. "What shall we have? Simply a Town House with an annex. . . . We live in an age in which we are expected to keep pace with things. We, therefore, support water works, street lighting, fire alarms, and much more that increases the rate of taxation. But in providing school houses we may be regarded as having fallen in the rear. For a period of nearly fifty years we have built but two school houses, namely, Prescott and West Corners, in 1867 and 1892 respectively". Mr. Beal quoted fifteen towns that had spent more, but despite his eloquence action was indefinitely postponed.

1904 saw the wets creeping up on the drys, being beaten by the count of 396-369. "We, the subscribers, selectmen of Randolph and Stoughton, agreeable to notice given by said selectmen of Stoughton, it being the most ancient town, met this day for the purpose of perambulating the lines of said towns". It was voted to purchase land and erect a high school. Chosen as a committee were, John V. Beal, H. A. Belcher, John K. Willard, Fred M. French, Winthrop B. Atherton, Royal T. Mann, Edward Long, Thomas J. Keinan, Redmond T. Barrett. It was voted to sell the Salt Marsh in Quincy if \$300.00 could be obtained as the price, and to invest the money as part of the Coddington Fund. New by-laws in 1905 made it an offense to break street lights, or collect junk.

1905 saw the first appearance of a socially and politically important word in the records, when a by-law was presented to the effect that "no automobile or motorcycle shall be run on any public or private way . . . outside limits of thickly settled or business portions of the town at a speed exceeding 15 miles per hour". In settled sections, ". . . a reasonable and proper rate of speed and in no event exceeding 8 miles per hour". The ruling was unanimously adopted. (It may be worthy of incidental mention that the first car in town is said to have belonged to Harry Hurd of West Street.)

Moderator Flood was ill and unable to preside at an adjourned town meeting. An expression of sympathy was sent him. There were a great many special town meetings during this period all focusing on the matter of the new high school. A suggestion was made that Dr. E. A. Alden's estate be purchased for \$8000.00, and a high school built on the lot at an estimated cost of \$18,000.00. The meeting was adjourned after a long verbal battle, and at a later meeting, the proposal was defeated. It was then suggested that the Kelly estate, owned by Richard H. McAuliffe, be bought. In 1906 many suggestions were brought forward for location; the Town House lot, the Bingley or Horatio Alden lot, the Jonathan Wales lot, the Seth Mann and Obadiah Jones lot, the David Burrell lot, the John Kelly lot, the No. 8 school building. But the committee still clung to its preference of the Dr. Ebenezer Alden lot, and the town accepted the report. Next year by a vote of 248-3 it voted \$8000.00 for the Dr. Alden lot (which is the present site of Stetson High School) and \$30,000.00 for the building. A loan was later floated to raise the money.

The drys gained in the 1908 fight with 337 "no" votes and 250 "yes" votes. The total appropriation had now climbed to \$52,170.16. Brown-tailed moths make their appearance in the records in 1910, and by 1911 only \$1500.00 of the \$2700.00 necessary for a soldier's monument had been raised. This year the town fathers all bore Irish names, and Patrick McLaughlin defeated Walter Stephens for moderator by ten votes. The care of trees cost \$400.00. By 1912 the money was raised for the monument and it was erected. The G. A. R. post took the unexpended balance of \$200.00 and made it a fund for keeping the statute clean. The town stayed dry. The brown tail moths grew as a



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

nuisance and \$1033.00 was expended to eliminate them. A rather light presidential ballot was cast with LaFollette getting one lone vote, and Taft and Theodore Roosevelt each getting 87.

By 1913 the number of local voters reached 888, and the total sum of money raised and appropriated was \$62,878.32. By-laws were passed forbidding coasting and bicycles could not be ridden on the sidewalks. Smoking was forbidden in the Town Hall as was spitting on the floor, and liquor could not be brought onto the premises either for sale or

In 1914 an offer to light the town by gas was turned down as too expensive. As in previous times, no mention of the outbreak of war finds its place in the town records.

The year of 1915 was so eventless that we may break our historical continuity by noting random items which occurred about this time, namely, that then North Randolph was known as "Spotless Town", that the barn of the Boston School for the Deaf was formerly the carbarn for the Bay State Street Railway Company, and that it was the



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

consumption. The motorist's climb to political influence is revealed in the by-law that forbids tossing anything into the road that might injure tires. The curfew law forbade children under sixteen to be on the streets after "9 o'clock in the afternoon", unless accompanied by an adult or returning from their duties. The signal was three strokes upon the fire alarm at "8:50 in the afternoon".

custom for the firemen to take horses from any passing wagon, in the event there were no fire horses in the barn.

In 1916 the minimum pay of laborers was thirty cents an hour and the total appropriation was \$75,763.47. By-laws restricting hawkers and peddlers were passed. A proposal to build a county tuberculosis sanatorium on Ferguson's Farm was



rejected in 1917 because it was on the Great Pond Watershed. The protest was violent. A vote of thanks was given to Herbert F. French for a new system of bookkeeping. The war remained out of the town records. In 1918 Herman W. French was made Town Clerk. According to an unwritten custom, popular newly-married men were elected as fence viewers.

1919 brought a proposal to raise and appropriate money to hail the return of the soldiers. \$500.00 was voted and a committee appointed to solicit fur-

ther funds. John B. McNeill became town clerk. The inroads of the car on the street railway system is shown by an item to see if the town would contribute \$1500.00 to the Eastern Mass. Railway Company to continue the line to South Braintree. The motion was defeated, but in November it was voted to make the appropriation if Braintree would match it. It was voted to give the school teachers a raise, and to change the name of Central Square to Crawford Square in honor of the slain war hero. With this meeting the book of records comes to a close.



The pursuit plane, the "Spirit of Randolph", was purchased with War Bonds sold during a special campaign sponsored by the Randolph Victory Committee, early in 1943. The students and faculty members of the schools of Randolph assisted materially in the success of the campaign.





## *The Sesquicentennial . . . 1943*

WHEN Randolph was legally one hundred years old the civic birthday party was celebrated in times of peace and stability. To be sure, the "Cleveland panic" was getting under way, but the hard times that lay ahead of the town in 1893 was as nothing in comparison with the vast and terrible throes which convulsed the world in 1943, and which vitally affected Randolph as they did every hamlet and city in the United States. The war was in its grim middle years as the 150th Anniversary of Randolph was observed, and a military cast was over all the proceedings. Already gold stars were on the town honor roll in front of Stetson High School, and over seven hundred young people, including 19 girls, were in the armed forces when the sesquicentennial proceedings were held during the middle of October.

We are fortunate in having a full record of the week's activities. Selectman Theodore S. Luddington, publisher of the *Tri-Town Weekly*, joined forces with Augustus H. Sullivan, publisher of the *Randolph Herald*, to produce a joint 150th Anniversary Observance edition. This edition is invaluable in giving a picture of things as they were during that war-time week, and it would be well for a copy to be preserved in the town files for the benefit of tomorrow's historian. The edition is a candid camera shot of Randolph in war time. No polished history could quite catch the effect of those war-dominated years as does this piece of on-the-spot journalism.

This chapter is largely a condensation of that issue, with material being excluded in the light of five years' perspective. There is a sense in which a completely accurate picture will not be possible, for the public stenographer hired for the occasion did not put in an appearance, with the result that speeches were not taken down, and certain departures from the published order were not noted.

Before recording the events of the day we speak briefly of the advertisements in the Anniversary Edition. Advertising tells an interesting story. European observers say that the advertisements in American papers and magazines tell more about Americans than do the stories and articles and editorials. The

naming of the businesses which participated would be a risky task, hence only one company will be mentioned, and this because it sets the keynote of the whole. The back page was taken up with a full page ad by the American Fireworks Company, headed by a banner bearing the Army and Navy "E" for excellence, an award given because of the quality of the ammunition, and the effort of the workers, plus the fact that all of them contributed at least 10% of their weekly pay for the purchase of War Bonds. This company, whose plant was located on the West side of High Street between Vine Street and the Stoughton Road, was a booming industry during the war period, and many local people were employed there. Buses brought women to work from neighboring towns.

In September, 1943, the selectmen issued the following proclamation:

### A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Town of Randolph, Massachusetts having been incorporated under the laws and with the authorization of the General Court in 1793, we, the elected members of the Board of Selectmen, do officially proclaim that a public observance of the 150th Anniversary of said incorporation shall be held on Sunday, October 17, 1943.

Whereas, such observance shall be conducted with proper exercises and whereas, such exercises shall be under the jurisdiction of a committee of townspeople, and referred to, as the General Committee.

In this year of 1943, with the World ablaze and flaming in the ravages of war, our people will live through, to the day that Victory is won, by making sacrifices and denials with the same perseverance and determination as did the sons of Randolph, since that historic year of 1793.

In less than a score of years after the establishment of the independence of the colonies, the hardy stalwart sons of the South Precinct of Old Braintree, "seeked and petitioned for the incorporation of their town" and thereafter conducted her own government independently.

The memory of man does not dwell at great length on the events of yesteryear, but Randolph has dwelt and advanced through her century and one-half, contributing to culture, science, and in-



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

dusty. Ever and always the call for the defense of the country, the commonwealth, the county, and the town, has been answered.

Randolph is proud of her history.

The year 1793 is a memorable one on our records. Let it ever be sacred and motivate our lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: we have set our hands and caused the seal of the Town of Randolph to be affixed.

DONE at Randolph, Massachusetts, this fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and forty-three and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-eighth.

(signed) CHARLES F. BLAKELY  
" RALPH H. HUTCHINSON  
" THEODORE S. LUDDINGTON

In addition to the Board of Selectmen, a committee was set up with Walter F. Stephens as general chairman; Mary E. O'Riley, general secretary; Murray Lewis and Mrs. Raymond L. Mason, publicity. The executive committee consisted of: William S. Condon, James V. Donovan, Herman W. French, Walter J. Good, Helen E. Hanley, John Edmund Kelley, Isaac R. Mann, Roland H. Marden, Arthur V. McKenna, Martin E. Young and Eugene L. McAuliffe.

A large number of organizations and specially delegated members assisted with the plans and execution of the 150th Anniversary. They are as follows:

## DECORATIONS COMMITTEE

Charles F. Main, Chairman  
Edmund R. Flaherty      Chester W. Paine  
George N. Welch      Perley Evans  
Ernest C. Beswick

## COMMITTEE ON MUSIC

Hubert F. Gilgan, Chairman  
Isabella Schultz      John G. Hoye

## OLDE COLONIAL SUPPER COMMITTEE

Miss Helen M. Haney, Chairman	Mrs. Clara Nickerson
Mrs. Frederick Coite, Executive Chairman	Mrs. Donald Ferris
Miss Viola K. Ruggles Chairman of Organization Canteen Chairman	Mrs. Harold Howard
Mrs. Florence Harris Asst. Chairman of Organization Asst. Canteen Chairman	Mrs. Lillian Jaeger
Mrs. Ethel Chatfield Chairman of Ticket Committee	Mrs. Muriel Rounds
Miss Stella Krupka Chairman of Decorations	Mrs. Alice McNeil
	Mrs. Ellen J. McMahon
	Mrs. William J. Brennan
	Mrs. Elizabeth Durkee
	Mrs. Priscilla Davis
	Mrs. Marion Holbrook
	Mrs. Madeline Farnsworth
	Mrs. Isabella Schultz

Mrs. Elmer Lamper  
Mrs. Raymond L. Mason  
Mrs. Robert Burns  
Miss Ruth A. Neuhart  
Chairman of Waitress Committee  
Mrs. Alice Randall  
Chairman of Transportation  
Mrs. Una Belcher  
Mrs. J. A. Cox  
Mrs. Retha Bens  
Mrs. William Blake

Mrs. Christina Borden  
Mrs. Hugh Doyle  
Mrs. A. R. Kendall  
Mrs. Helen Pelissier  
Miss Marion Madan  
Mrs. Alice Powers  
Mrs. Grace Wells  
Mrs. Rose Bonetti  
Mrs. Helen McMakin  
Mrs. Louise Lyons  
Mrs. Martha Pemberton

## COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### School Committee

James Edmund Kelley	William Billingham
Ralph Hutchinson	Philip L. Boyle (in absentia)
Frank E. Linfield	(In armed forces)

### Stetson High School

Hubert Gilgan	Ruth Newhart
Eleanor Kelley	Mary E. Connors
Margaret Brewer	Patricia Galvin
Genevieve Donaldson	Martha Foley
Viola K. Ruggles	John H. Stella

### Prescott School

Frank K. Dillon	Mary Dunphy
Mary McLaughlin	Anne Ginnetty
Marguerite Mahady Boyle	Martha Harhan

### Devine School

Margaret Donovan	Anna Good
Emeline McGerrigle	Elizabeth Doyle
Elizabeth Tierney	

### Belcher School

Ethel Chatfield	Veronica Gaynor	Diauto
Nona Sullivan	Phyllis Daley	

### McNeil School

Julia Martus	Alice Haley
	Patricia Vogel

### Tower Hill School

Marie Cormey	Marion Madan
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### Pauline School

Ruth McKim	Lillian Kane
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## RANDOLPH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Raymond L. Mason	Mrs. Loretta Murphy
Mrs. Carl Vogel	George Mitchell
	C. Lloyd Claff

## LIEUT. THOMAS W. DESMOND POST, No. 169, AMERICAN LEGION

Charles F. Main	Edmund R. Flaherty
Perley Evans	Chester W. Paine
Ernest C. Beswick	George N. Welch



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

## LIEUT. JOHN D. CRAWFORD POST, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Philips J. Burns	Hugh Pudsey
Herman Heim	Elmer J. Delorey
	William L. Hurley

## RANDOLPH COMPANY, No. 54 MASS. STATE GUARD

Capt. Elmer Delorey	1st Sgt. Omar G. Cossaboom
Staff Sgt. D. DeLellis	Corp. Boeman T. Colburn
Sgt. Marion Foote	Corp. Michael Kakshtis

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Mrs. Marie Guinasso

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY Mrs. Alice Shea

## RANDOLPH VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

Helen M. Haney	Grace Scannell
Benjamin P. Crowell	Beatrice Scannell
	Grace Mahady

## AMERICAN RED CROSS RANDOLPH BRANCH UNITS

Hubert F. Gilgan	
<i>Red Cross Motor Corps</i>	
Capt. Alice Randall	Miss Marjorie Kent
Mrs. Rea Forrest	Mrs. Bertha Soule
Mrs. Ruth Conrad	Mrs. Madeline Corey
<i>Assisting in Plasma Drive</i>	
Mrs. Ethel Heath	Miss Christina Borden
Mrs. Lucille Coite	Mrs. Joseph A. Cox
Mrs. Helen Pelissier	Mrs. Helen Sullivan
Mrs. William Brennan	Mrs. Edith Sullivan
	Mrs. Loretta Hinckley

## RANDOLPH RATIONING BOARD No. 253

George N. Welch	Martin E. Young
Albert C. Wilde	Edmund R. Flaherty
	James D. McKinnon

## RANDOLPH POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Thomas H. Good, Acting Postmaster

George Corcoran	William Burchell
William O'Connell	Walter Scanlon
	William Loud

## TOWER HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Emma W. Lucas	John A. Foley
Mrs. Charles F. Brown	Miss Alice Collins
Mrs. Alma Sheehan	Miss Hortense Hayes

## RANDOLPH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Arthur W. McKenna	Raymond E. Lyons
Frank Curran	Ernest C. Martin
	Martin E. Young

## GOLDEN STAR LODGE REBEKAH

Mrs. Alma Dixon	Mr. and Mrs. Russell Tweed
Miss Ruth Taylor	Mrs. Mildred Towns
	Mrs. Bessie Stephens

## LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Mrs. R. L. Mason	Mrs. Chester Paine
Mrs. Joseph Cox	Mrs. Joseph Simmons
	Miss Helen White

## LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Mrs. L. Whittemore	Mrs. Hattie Bailey
Mrs. Grace Wells	Mrs. Alice Hadley
	Mrs. Ethel Mann

## JUNIOR LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Miss Jean Smith	Miss Dorothy Cox
Miss Barbara Paine	Miss Marion Madan
Miss Ruth Sheehan	Miss Virginia Baker

## MASS. WOMEN'S DEFENSE CORPS

Capt. Loretta Murphy	
Lt. Edith Christiansen	Sgt. Lephie Thompson
Lt. Grace Houston	Sgt. Edith Hill

## NORTH RANDOLPH IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

Carl E. Reichert	Mr. and Mrs. Louis Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Downes	J. W. S. Peters
	Frank Hicks

## O. E. S. CHAPTER

Mrs. Emma Swain	Mrs. Marion Lutz
Worthy Matron	Associate Matron
Mr. William Hurry	Mr. George Bauer
Worthy Patron	Associate Patron

## RANDOLPH GRANGE, P. OF H., 316

Edward Cedarholm	Charles Dyer
Howard McPhee	Mrs. Rose Dockendorf
	Mrs. Maybelle Dietrich

## RANDOLPH GIRL SCOUTS COUNCIL

Mrs. Grace Pearson	Mrs. Emma Cross
Mrs. Alice Martin	Mrs. Adelaide Wylie
	Mrs. Elizabeth Merriken, Commissioner

## RISING STAR, I. O. O. F.

Mr. James A. Thompson, Noble Grand	
Mr. Horace French	Mr. Hugh Williams
Mr. Alfred Benway	Mr. Orrin White

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Stella Krupka	Mary McLaughlin
Anna Ginnetty	Alice Haley

## STETSON SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Mrs. Alice Kelley	Mrs. Edith Christiansen
Mrs. Helen Donovan	Mrs. Ellen McCarthy (Freeman)

## WOMAN'S GUILD — TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Mrs. Sally Williamson	Mrs. Sarah Cashion
Mrs. Retha Bens	Mrs. Doris Teece
	Mrs. Clara M. Nickerson



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

A great amount of planning lay behind the Anniversary proceedings, and Chairman Stephens, in a statement took note of this. He said:

At a special town meeting held early in the year an appropriation was voted to defray the expense of an appropriate observance of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Randolph.

During the month of August, pursuant to invitations issued to all town officials and local organizations, a meeting was held at which a permanent organization was effected with Walter F. Stephens as general chairman, and Mrs. Elizabeth O'Riley as Committee secretary. At the same meeting Mr. Murray Lewis was chosen as publicity chairman and plans laid for including representatives of every active local organization, on the general committee.

Sunday, October 17, 1943, was selected as the date for the official exercises to be held at the Stetson High School Athletic Field. The point was stressed that each church, in its services on that date should recognize the anniversary in some fitting manner. Owing to war conditions and the limited time for preparation, it was the consensus of opinion that no elaborate program should be arranged and that the exercises should be simple, rather than spectacular.

Since the forming of the general committee, regular weekly meetings have been held and the committee has subdivided its activities so that smaller groups have concentrated on specific features. The idea of a pageant which found general favor, became modified into a "pageant parade" to be arranged by the schools of the town under the direction of the school committee and the teachers. The banquet problem was solved by empowering a special committee to arrange and provide an old fashioned supper in connection with the anniversary.

The junior group of the Ladies' Library Association undertook the responsibility of sponsoring "block dancing" in or near Crawford Square on the evening of October 16th.

It was decided to make the week of October 10th an "old home" week with the different organizations observing the anniversary with such programs as they saw fit to offer.

To this end, the Girl Scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth Merriken, the Civilian Defense units, the local State Guard company, such

organizations as the Ladies' Library Association, the Odd Fellows, the Randolph Grange, the Tower Hill Improvement Association and others have arranged meetings in keeping with the occasion.

The Red Cross Motor Corps assisted by other local Red Cross units, added a realistic touch to the program by offering to organize a drive for 150 blood donors as its contribution. The American Legion post voted to keep open house on October 17th and was empowered to supervise the suitable decorations of the town. Not to be overlooked is the fact that at the same time and place and under the auspices of the Randolph Victory Committee, an Honor Roll will be dedicated to those hundreds of our youth who have entered the armed services of their country.

On Sunday, October 10th, the North Randolph Improvement Association will dedicate an Honor Roll to the youth from that section of the town.

"To the school organization which has been so helpful in so many ways, to the chairman of publicity who has been tireless in getting our aims before the public, to all individuals and groups, who have co-operated so loyally in this undertaking, your chairman extends his sincere thanks. He wishes there was space to give proper public recognition to all of your individual contributions.

"Throughout the weeks of preparation, there has been a sustained interest. The attendance has not slackened nor the interest abated. When, night after night, 50 or more men and women assembled to discuss the details of such an affair, it shows a public spirit which is most commendable.

You have differed as to detail, but presented a united front on essentials. Your chairman is proud to have been associated with you.

The Town of Randolph owes much to all of you.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. STEPHENS,  
General Chairman,  
Committee on 150th Anniversary."

Wide publicity was given in press, pulpit and lodge room and the meetings of various civic and patriotic orders to the program of the Sesquicentennial Week. The program will indicate the wide interest shown in the event by the various organizations of the town.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Dedication of North Randolph Honor Roll. Sponsored by the North Randolph Improvement Association. Frances S. Hicks, Clyde V. Richardson, Co-chairmen.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

Open House and old-fashioned party sponsored by the Tower Hill Improvement Association, to be held at their headquarters. Mrs. Robert Lucas, President.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Ladies' Library Association will hold an open house and tea at their home on North Main Street, during the afternoon. Mrs. Fred Whittemore and Mrs. Johnson in charge. Open house to be held at quarters of the Rising Star Lodge, I. O. O. F., during the evening. James Thompson, Noble Grand.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Randolph Grange, P. of H. will serve a supper at their hall on North Street during the evening. Edward Cedarholm, Master.

Trinity Episcopal Women's Guild will exhibit old views of Randolph and will conduct an open house.

Exhibition and demonstrations conducted by Randolph Committee on Public Safety and Massachusetts Women's Defense Corps, Stetson Hall, 8 P. M. General Chairman C. Lloyd Claff, Chief Air Raid Warden, Raymond L. Mason, Captain Loretta Murphy.

150th Observance meeting of the Randolph-Holbrook Rotary Club, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, 12:15 P. M. Paul Long, President.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club, historical review of Parish in connection with the history of Randolph. Stella Krupka, President; Anna Ginnetty, Mary McLaughlin. Miss Margaret Donovan will appear as "Town Crier".

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Victory Food Fair under the sponsorship of the Girl Scouts Council. Mrs. Elizabeth Merriken, Commissioner. Stetson Hall, 1 P. M. to 9:30 P. M. Exhibits, displays and demonstrations of home-grown foods and products. Old-fashioned block and square dancing.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

2:30 P. M. Football game — Stetson High School vs. Hanover High School.

6:00 P. M. Old Colonial New England Supper to be served in the Parish Hall of St. Mary's Church. Miss Helen M. Haney, Chairman.

8:00 P. M. Block Dance to be held in the parking area of the Randolph Theater. Sponsored by the Junior Ladies' Library Association. Miss Jean Smith, Chairman.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

150th Observance Services:

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:

Rev. Eugene S. Philbrook, S.T.S.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

Rev. Harry R. Butman

ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:

Rev. James Kelleher, Pastor

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:

Rev. Joseph P. Murphy, Pastor

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

Rev. Lawrence R. Nyberg

2:00 P. M. Parade to start at the First Baptist Church.

ROSTER:

Chief Marshal: Edmund R. Flaherty, Past Commander  
Lieut. Thomas W. Desmond Post, A. L. No. 169.

Chief of Police Patrick T. McDonnell and escort.  
Volunteer Band, 114th Service Command Service Unit, Camp Edwards, Mass. PFC Raymond F. Brusen, Band Leader.

Randolph State Guard Co., No. 54, Capt. Elmer J. Delorey.

Lieut. Thomas W. Desmond Post, No. 169, American Legion, Charles Main, Commander.

Lieut. John D. Crawford Post, No. 3389, V. F. W., Philip J. Burns, Commander.

Stetson High School Band, Myron B. Thomas, Director; Marie Rota, Drum Majorette.

Prescott School Band.

Pageant Parade of Students from:

Stetson High School

Prescott School

Belcher School

Charles G. Devine School

Tower Hill School

McNeil School

Pauline School

Boy Scout Escort.

2:30 P. M. Dedication of RANDOLPH HONOR ROLL to be held on lawn of Stetson High School.

Selections by Volunteer Band, 114th Service Command Service Unit.

Invocation: Rev. Joseph P. Murphy.

Address: Commander Charles Main, Lt. Thomas W. Desmond Post, No. 169.

Remarks: Rev. Harry R. Butman.

Address: Commander Philip J. Burns, Lt. John D. Crawford Post, No. 3389.

Address: Thomas Scannell, President Randolph Soldiers' and Sailors' Association.

Prayer: Rev. Lawrence Nyberg.

Presentation to Gold Star Mothers by Miss Alice Desmond.

Scripture by Rev. Eugene S. Philbrook, S.T.D.

Dedication Address: Theodore S. Luddington, Chairman Randolph Victory Committee.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

Unveiling of Honor Roll by Randolph Servicemen.  
Color Guard of the:

Lieut. Thomas W. Desmond Post, American  
Legion, No. 169.

Lieut. John D. Crawford Post, V. F. W., 3389.

Benediction: Rev. James Kelleher.

National Anthem: Volunteer Band, 114th Service  
Command Service Unit, Camp Edwards, Mass.  
PFC. Raymond F. Brusen, Leader.

3:30 P.M. Observance ceremonies of Randolph's  
150th Anniversary, Stetson High School Athletic  
Field.

Invocation: Rev. Joseph P. Murphy

Welcome Address: General Chairman, Walter F.  
Stephens.

Representative Roy E. Smith, Holbrook.

Historical Highlights of Randolph: Rev. Harry  
R. Butman, First Congregational Church.

Oration: Honorable David I. Walsh, United  
States Senator, Chairman Naval Affairs Com-  
mittee.

Benediction: Rev. Eugene S. Philbrook, S.T.S.

National Anthem.

The program of the final day did not precisely  
follow the printed order. During the dedication of  
the Honor Roll Senator David I. Walsh made an  
unscheduled tribute to the mothers of America. In  
the observance ceremonies, held on Stetson Field,



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Address: Chairman Charles F. Blakely, Board of  
Selectmen, Randolph.

Address: Congressman Richard B. Wigglesworth.

Greetings of the Commonwealth: Francis X.  
Hurley, State Treasurer.

Selections by Volunteer Band, 114th Service Com-  
mand Service Unit.

Greetings: Frederick A. Leavitt, Chairman Board  
of Commissioners, Norfolk County.

Jarvis Hunt, President, Massachusetts State  
Senate.

Mayor Charles A. Ross, Quincy.

Representative Albert E. Roberts, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen, Braintree.

Thomas E. Durant, Chairman Board of Select-  
men, Holbrook.

his oration was moved to a position immediately  
following the address of welcome by Chairman  
Stephens. It should be further noted that the dedi-  
cation exercises were much better attended than  
the ceremonies of observance, and as the afternoon  
wore on a cold wind sprang up, and reduced the  
number of listeners to such a degree that the final  
speeches were heard largely by auditors kept in  
their places by a sense of duty imposed by official  
position. Francis X. Hurley, discovering that Sena-  
tor Walsh was saying precisely the points he had  
intended to make, deftly composed a new discourse  
during the ceremonies and delivered it with ease



and skill. A dedication address was made at the honor roll by Selectman Theodore S. Luddington, chairman of the Victory Committee:

"The authority to erect this Honor Roll was vested in the Randolph Victory Committee by a vote of the citizens of Randolph, assembled at a special town meeting in June of this year. Several meetings were held by the Committee since that date with the result that permission was granted by the School Committee to erect a memorial at this location. The members of the Victory Committee are volunteer workers and, while praise is due to all members, Murray Lewis is deserving of particular commendation because of his untiring efforts in the compilation of this list of names. Names will be added to this Honor Roll every thirty days and, if there are errors or omissions, please notify Mr. Lewis.

"In every war Randolph has answered the call. More than 740 men and women of our town are now on far flung battlefronts fighting for the freedom we love so well. Yesterday they were just boys and girls attending this High School and engaging in study and athletic sports. Today they are men and women in their country's service. Today we honor them at this dedication, here, now we are remembering them, but remembering them today is not as important as remembering them after the War. President Roosevelt has assured the men in the armed forces that the American people would not let them down when the war is over. In the name of the President a promise has been made. The people will back him to the limit. Those who face the foes will be taken care of, the well with work, and the injured with hospital treatment. It is a debt the nation owes to them. Out of gratitude it must be paid. For time to come, wherever men assemble to have freedom of speech and freedom of worship, these men and women will long be remembered. Immediate steps should be taken here in our home town for post war plans for the care of our brave men and women for many of them will be wounded in body and spirit when they return. At that time Randolph must pay its debt for their sacrifices. You will be called upon later at your town meetings to remember the promises made. I know that you will not forget.

"Now we dedicate this memorial to the memory of

Robert Almond	Geoffrey Marconi
Maurice Davis	James Markle
Adrian Essiembre	Richard McAuliffe
Thomas Fogo	James Nelson
Victor Lewis	Henry Sanborn

who have laid so costly a sacrifice on the altar of freedom; to all Randolph men and women who are now engaged in the struggle or who in the future may be included in their company, and to the hope that our prayers to Almighty God will be answered that no more gold stars will be added to this Honor Roll."

Although the dedication of the Randolph Honor Roll was the main event of this nature, it was not the only one. The exercises at the Honor Roll in

North Randolph had preceded it, as the following account indicates.

## DEDICATION OF NORTH RANDOLPH HONOR ROLL OPENS EXERCISES

*Donald Nelson, Son of Missing Hero,  
Unveils Memorial*

The opening exercises of the 150th anniversary of the town was sponsored by the North Randolph Improvement Association when the honor Roll of over two hundred names of men and women from that section of the town was dedicated.

The dedication exercises started with a parade from West Corners to the Association building. In the procession were the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Thomas W. Desmond Post American Legion, the Randolph State Guard Co., No. 54, under the direction of Captain Elmer J. Delorey; Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Stetson High School Band, in charge of Myron Thomas, bandmaster, and Miss Marie Rota, drum majorette.

Carl Reichert, president of the North Randolph Association, welcomed the large attendance and then introduced Francis S. Hicks and Clyde V. Richardson, co-chairmen of the Honor Roll Committee. Walter F. Stephens, Moderator of the town and General Chairman of the Anniversary Committee, served as the master of ceremonies. Invocation was offered by the Rev. James Kelleher.

Donald Nelson, son of James Nelson of the United States Maritime Service, who has been missing in action in the North Atlantic, unveiled the attractive, 212 name Honor Roll.

After the unveiling ceremonies, Mr. Stephens introduced Mr. Charles Blakely, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, who spoke briefly on the history of North Randolph. Other speakers were Theodore S. Luddington, chairman of the Randolph Victory Committee; George N. Welch, Past Commander of the Lieut. Thomas W. Desmond Post, American Legion, and Chief Attorney of the Veterans' Administration Boston Office, and Murray Lewis, Historian of World War II Activities.

Rev. Harry R. Butman offered the benediction.

The bulk of the Observance Edition was, of course, given over to the chronicling of the town's war effort. (Incidentally, it may be noted here that while the Centennial had been celebrated with baseball games and bicycle races, no such pleasant competition was set up in 1943. The pick of the town's athletes, together with the best of the nation's sinew and bone, was engaged in grimmer conflict.) There were few in the town who were not engaged in some fashion in helping in the war effort. And it should be borne in mind that while the listing of all the names recorded may mean duplication in many cases, that this historian has no desire to slight any Randolph citizen who gave of time and strength in the long war years.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

### VICTORY COMMITTEE AT HOME WORKS FOR SERVICE MEN AWAY

Adopting as their slogan "Always Remembering the Boys and Girls in the Service" the Randolph Victory Committee was formed in September, 1942.

Sponsoring a movement to send to every Randolph boy and girl in the Service a Christmas gift, the Victory Committee raised funds through public subscription and nearly six hundred packages were mailed to all parts of the world. Letters expressing appreciation have been received from the men and women in the Services.

Following the Second War Loan, last spring, the Randolph Victory Committee sponsored the purchase of a fighter plane for the Army Air Force by conducting a drive to sell \$100,000 in War Bonds during a six-week period. The drive ended in a blaze of success, when \$12,000 in Bonds were sold. At the Town Meeting held in March, 1943, the Randolph Victory Committee was, by a vote of those present, made a regular town committee.

Plans have just been completed by the committee to live up to their slogan and once more gift packages are to be mailed to every Randolph boy and girl in the Service in all parts of the world. The Randolph Victory Committee has indeed been very active since its organization.

The following are officers and members of the Committee, as appointed by the Town Moderator Walter F. Stephens.

Theodore S. Luddington .	Chairman
Timothy Lyons, Jr. . . .	Vice-Chairman
Martin E. Young . . . .	Treasurer
Mary S. O'Riley . . . .	Secretary
Murray Lewis . . . .	Publicity
Una C. Belcher	Ralph H. Hutchinson
Charles F. Blakely	Harry C. Isaac
Philip Burns	May G. Jones
Charles L. Byron	Walter C. Kane
Mildred Byron	Alice G. Kelley
Ethel S. Chatfield	Clara F. Kennedy
C. Lloyd Claff	Dorothy Labelle
Edgar B. Cole	William J. Leahy
William S. Cole	James D. MacKinnon
Thomas J. Collins	Charles F. Main
R. Eileen Courtney	Roland H. Marden
Louis J. Courtney	Eugene L. McAuliffe
Marie Cormey	Charles H. McGrath
Benjamin P. Crowell	Arthur V. McKenna
Elmer J. Delorey	Elizabeth Merriken
Edmund Derocher	Clara M. Nickerson
Charlotte L. Diauto	Thomas O'Riley
Michael J. Diauto	Chester W. Paine
John F. Deitrick	Edward R. Pelessier
Frank K. Dillon	Alice W. Randall
James V. Donovan	Orrin E. Reynolds
Helen E. Donovan	Viola J. Ruggles
Margaret L. Donovan	Bertha Salamone
Frank M. Downes	Thomas F. Scannell
Violet L. Downes	Isabella P. Schulz
George H. Eldridge	Mae V. Scott
Bea Forrest	Alice C. Shea

George L. Frawley	Joseph E. Simmons
John A. Fredrickson	Bertha E. Soule
Frank R. Gaffney	Walter F. Stephens
Hubert F. Gilgan	Augustus H. Sullivan
Anna K. Good	Helen T. Sullivan
Walter J. Good	Marie E. Sullivan
Glenda G. Harkins	Arthur J. Tringue
Jean Harkins	George N. Welch
Virginia M. Harkins	Mildred E. Welch
Frank Hess	Sally Williamson
J. Joseph Hurley	Ruth J. Wright
J. Frank Higgins	

The most carefully organized military agency was the Civilian Defense. The account does not tell of what is probably to many the most vivid of all their war remembrances, their services as air raid wardens, and their duty at the center in the cellar of the Turner Library. We have almost forgotten the thrill of the total blackouts; the stopping of all traffic, the extinguished lights, the drawn curtains, the hurrying feet of the wardens on the pavement. No one was permitted to stir outside without the coveted arm band. Before the war was over, the volunteers who manned the phones at the air raid center had lost some of their zeal, and the over-worked chief air raid warden was hard put to it to keep the center staffed according to army standards. Many readers will recall their long midnight hours of lonely duty. It all seems unreal and a little silly now, but before our eyes in those days was a picture of London in flames, and we knew not how great Hitler's resources might be.

### RANDOLPH CIVILIAN DEFENSE ACTIVE SINCE PEARL HARBOR

The Randolph Committee on Public Safety, popularly known as Civilian Defense, was organized in Randolph long before the blasting of Pearl Harbor. The first general meeting was held during March, 1941, to register loyal men and women, who wished to volunteer their services for non-military home defense.

The interest shown during the first months of organization was of a mild nature. There was much talk of "let's keep out of this thing" as Hitler's hordes were ravaging Europe. Peace visits from the little men of Tojo had not begun.

The meetings of the Committee on Public Safety were held periodically and a skeleton executive committee carried on the duties in a sort of purposeless manner.

Then came the bombing of Pearl Harbor and an overflowing crowd gathered in the Town Hall at a meeting called by C. Lloyd Claff, who was appointed Chairman by Gov. Leverett Saltonstall. The committee organized into many groups, Auxiliary Police, Auxiliary Fire Dept., Air Raid Wardens, Canteen Workers, First Aid Workers, and other groups, all ready to aid and assist in case danger visited our land.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

Since those first days, the Randolph Committee of public Safety has been held in preparedness, through its many classes in the various services. It has held many air raid tests, maneuvers, and blackout tests.

The Committee on Public Safety cooperated directly with the headquarters of the First Service Command and all orders are issued from that base.

Dimout regulations designated by the U. S. Army are checked on by the members of the local committee and the success of the local committee and the success of the dimout enforcement is largely due to the efforts of the Public Safety committees.

C. Lloyd Claff is general chairman of the committee, Raymond L. Mason is Chief Air Raid Warden, Police Chief Patrick T. McDonnell is Chief Blackout Officer, Capt. Loretta Murphy, M. W. D. C., in charge of all class instruction.

The Red Cross was also active, and those who went in to the blood bank in Boston will well remember the strange and pleasant feeling of fellowship as one lay with punctured arm, together with a number of strangers on cots throughout the big unfinished building. There was a sense of genuine service in the giving of blood that few war effort activities could duplicate. And afterwards there was the comparing of sensations and the coke, coffee, or bouillon in the lounge.

### RED CROSS DISASTER GROUP ALWAYS READY

Ready to answer all emergency calls is the organized Red Cross Disaster Committee.

One of the regular services offered by this committee is the transporting of all inductees to the induction centers. This service is under the supervision of the Red Cross Motor Corps, who have also contributed their efforts in enlisting blood donors for the Red Cross Blood Bank. Captain Alice Randall is in charge of this drive.

Other units of the Disaster Committee are the First Aid Division and the Red Cross Canteen. Henry Corp is chairman of the First Aid Committee and Miss Viola K. Ruggles is chairman of the Canteen. Members of these units have answered all calls for air raid tests and have closely cooperated with the operations of the Civilian Defense Committee.

Mr. Walter C. Kane is Chairman of the local Red Cross Disaster Committee.

The ex-service men were still filled with a patriotic spirit as the next item indicates.

### LEGION POST ACTIVE IN WAR WORK

The Lieut. Thomas W. Desmond Post, American Legion, under the leadership of Past Commander William S. Cole and Commander Charles F. Main, has been active throughout the past year in many phases of war work.

Four members who served in World War I are now serving in the present conflict, they are Major William Yundt, Capt. Max Stueber, Lt. Charles H. Saltmarsh and Chief Carpenters Mate Milledge Feener.

Throughout the year, the members of the local post have assisted in the various drives and campaigns. A large percentage of the membership are active in Civilian Defense duties.

The Legion's part in Randolph's 150th observance exercises is the decorations of the town. That committee is Charles F. Main, Edmund R. Flaherty, George N. Welch, Chester W. Paine, Perley Evans, and Ernest C. Beswick.

The Legion will hold open house on Sunday, October 17, 1943, where refreshments will be served.

One of the factors that is essential in a modern war is money and Randolph was not amiss in this respect. An efficient committee was at work.

### RANDOLPH COMMITTEE CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL WAR BOND DRIVES

When the people of the country were purchasing Defense Stamps and Defense Bonds, before Pearl Harbor, James V. Donovan, president of the Randolph Trust Co., was appointed Chairman of the Randolph War Savings Committee.

Since the first War Loan, with its slogan of "Keep 'em Flying", this committee has been actively promoting the sale of stamps and bonds.

After Pearl Harbor, the name of Defense Bonds was changed to War Bonds, and during the second War Loan, the committee worked hard to accomplish the successful result of this drive.

Assigned a quota of more than three times its ordinary requirements, the newly named Randolph War Finance Committee conducted an all-out campaign to "Back the Attack" and once more the quota of War Bonds assigned to be sold in Randolph, was passed.

The members of the present Randolph War Finance Committee are:

James V. Donovan, Chairman; Theodore S. Luddington, Community Co-Chairman; Murray Lewis, Publicity Chairman; August H. Sullivan, Publicity; T. S. Luddington, Publicity; Edmond Derocher, Pledges; C. Lloyd Claff, Committee on Public Safety Activities; Walter Kane, William J. Leahy, and James V. Donovan, Industrial and Commercial Subscriptions; Arthur V. McKenna, Utility Division; Walter J. Good, Special Division; Martin E. Young, Payroll Deductions; Edmund R. Flaherty, William S. Cole, Ernest C. Martin, Home Canvas Division; Raymond E. Lyons, Retail Division.

A grimmer type of war effort is to be seen in a large photo of the Victor Allen Lewis Squadron, named in memory of the fine young airman shot down in the early stages of the war in the Pacific. Randolph boys enlisting were:

Lt. Comdr. R. Randolph Philbrook  
Randolph O. Boothby  
John H. Quimby  
John J. Mahoney  
Donald L. Ferris  
Albert Johnston



Murray Lewis, father of Victor Lewis, was very active in the war effort and his letter to the service men forms an interesting part of the Observance Edition published jointly by The Tri-Town Weekly and The Randolph Herald.

It's been so long since I have written, that I feel a bit on the "heely" side. But with things going on as they have I think that you'll forgive me. Anyway I'll try to make this letter interesting enough, so that you'll forgive me for my neglect.

The town is quite deserted and void of what you knew as the "gang" and with the dimout regulations in force, there isn't much fun going uptown to gather the "dirt". You're liable to be talking to the wrong person.

You see, when you take seven hundred and twenty-five fellows and girls out of a town like Randolph, you've got to be blind or dumb not to notice it and especially when they were chaps who'd always give you a big "hi-there". Did you notice that I mentioned the "girls" along with the fellows. Well let me tell you that I am proud of the showing of our "fair ones" who have entered the service. They are proving themselves able and worthy and are being recognized for their fine work more and more each day. Would you be interested in the names of the Randolph lassies in the service . . . not much . . . well here they are. There's Jennie Abrams in the WACs, her brother George is in the Marines, Mildred Kilcoyne, Gladys Carmody and Winifred Smith are in the WAVES, then we have a father and daughter combination, Jean MacLeod is in the WACs and her father Lt. Col. Ralph MacLeod is an Army Man of long standing. We also have a sister team, with Mary McGrory serving as a Navy Nurse and sister Anna doing duty as Ensign McGrory of the WAVES. Then we have sisters who are serving with brothers, Genevieve Bainers is in the WAC and her brother Mitchell serves in the Army, Virginia Cartwright and brother Ralph wear the khaki of the Army, Gladys Cox just donned the navy blues while Joe carries on for the Army, Mary Agnes Kiley an Army Nurse, and Brother Paul an AAF cadet. While William and Harold Arey are wearing the blue of the Navy, sister Caroline Arey is waiting for her call to the WAVES. Mary Whealan is in the WAVES while her brothers, Thomas and James, serve in the Army. I can't give you the real dope on Grace Ginnetty, but I know that her brothers Paul and James are in the Navy and that she is an Army Nurse and that her husband is in the service. But where and what branch, I just don't know. It is Grace Ginnetty Knox, Army Nurse. Incidentally, I think that Grace has the longest service record of all of our girls. She's been in the service since April, 1941. Teresa Doyle enlisted at about the same time, as an Army Nurse but she was awarded an honorable discharge shortly after her marriage to T/Sgt. Ira Trostel who is now serving. Perhaps you know these two girls who are in the service, Gertrude O'Connell of the WACs and Rose Grecco, who has just enlisted in the WAVES. Our lone enlistee (I wonder if that's right) in the Marines is Ruth Robertson and then we mustn't forget

Sylvia Cohen. Sylvia is down in the heart of Texas getting advanced training to become a ferry pilot in that important unit, the WAFS. Those are the young ladies, nineteen of them and I say . . . the best of luck to each and everyone. If you want their addresses, write to me . . . I'll do my best.

Another gold star was added to the flag when Richard McAuliffe was killed in a plane crash while on maneuvers in Tennessee. Richard was a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Gene McAuliffe and lived on Roel Street. He graduated from Stetson in '37. That brings the list up to ten and all I can say is that Randolph is getting her share. I pray and hope that this list does not grow.

Well, the High School has a football team this season and have scheduled six games. Joe Zapustas is the coach. He replaced Dan Leavitt who went over to Whitman to take over the coaching job there. The Stetson lads have played three games, one with Cathedral High of Boston and one with Foxboro and one with Scituate and have been on the short end of all. But that isn't too important. Zapustas is a good man, he knows his sports and the kids like him. He'll do okay.

I guess that Sunday or semi-pro football is completely out of the picture. As a matter of fact the only team in the district is one over in Quincy, even the Abington Old-Towners, after 25 years of Sunday football, couldn't find eleven men to put on the field.

The news of the 150th anniversary of the town is scattered through this paper and I hope that you get some interest out of it. I am saddened with the fact, that fate has decreed that the date should fall during these terrible times.

One of the finest contributions to the observance of the 150th anniversary was started by the Red Cross Motor Corps (that fine group of women who are always ready to help). They started a campaign to recruit 150 blood donors during the week of the anniversary, October 10 to 17. You see I've talked to some fellows who have had blood plasma given them and their appreciation of what the Red Cross is doing is humble and sincere . . . you bet I'm going again.

You will notice that the program for the 150th anniversary is not too extensive. The committee worked hard to observe the historic date. Nearly every organization in town was represented on the Committee with Moderator Walter F. Stephens serving as general chairman. I do want to tell you about the great work being done by the secretary of that committee, Mrs. Thomas O'Riley. She's the mother of Tom O'Riley, who is a Marine flyer. Her job as secretary is no cinch and she has done a real "bang-up" job.

Then perhaps you will note that the Honor Roll of all the boys and girls in the service, will be dedicated. The Honor Roll is a swell looking job and will be placed right in front of the High School, on the lawn, with shrubs and a flag-stone walk around it, to beautify it. I think that the spot is very appropriate as many of the boys and girls, whose names are placed on the Roll, attended Stetson High.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

The Victory Committee sponsored the erection of the Honor Roll. "Ted" Luddington is chairman of the Victory Committee and they are doing a lot of good work for the service people. I won't try to name all the good workers of the committee but some of those nice people are: Mrs. Bertha Soule, Mrs. Alice Randall, Mrs. Frank Harkins, Virginia and Jean Harkins, Mrs. Mildred Byron, Mrs. Isabella Schultz, Mrs. Mary O'Riley, Mrs. Una Belcher, Edmund Derocher and Martin Young. And gosh... there are so many, many more that are willing to dig in and help.

Do you remember the display of the Randolph Soldiers' and Sailors' Committee, in the old news store of the Lyceum Building? Well, perhaps you'll remember it better, when I ask you if you recall the great work being done by Tommy Scannell. Tom has over 400 pictures of the fellows in the service and has arranged the windows of the store with interesting news bits and stories. The "guy" is a glutton for work.

Well, it seems as though I have just rambled on and on, but I hope that you can get some interest out of this letter. I'd sure be tickled to hear from you and maybe I'll write again to give you the "dope" on things.

Real sincere wishes for a quick return,

MURRAY LEWIS.

P. S. — I understand that the High School is again putting out that nice, newsy letter to be sent to you and all the boys. It's great, watch for it . . . in your mail.

By way of footnote to this letter it should be said that Thomas Scannell's was truly a labor of love. The old gentleman's heart was in his work, and he made a real contribution to the town's morale.

Some idea of the number of organizations which gave strength and time to the 150th anniversary observance may be gained from this list, which, I believe, is not complete.

### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS — 1943

#### Participating in 150th Anniversary:

Randolph Committee on Public Safety  
C. Lloyd Claff, Chairman

Lieut. Thomas W. Desmond Post, A. L., No. 169  
Charles E. Main, Commander

Lieut. John D. Crawford Post, No. 3389, V. F. W.  
Philip Burns, Commander

American Legion Auxiliary  
Mrs. Marie Guinasso, Pres.

V. of F. W. Auxiliary  
Mrs. Alice Shea, Pres.

Randolph Co., No. 54, State Guard  
Elmer Delorey, Captain

American Red Cross, Randolph Branch  
Hubert F. Gilgan, Vice Chairman

American Red Cross Motor Corps  
Alice Randall, Captain

Emergency War Board  
Martin E. Young, Chairman

Randolph War Finance Committee  
James V. Donovan, Chairman

Tower Hill Improvement Ass'n.  
Mrs. Emma W. Lucas, President

Randolph Chamber of Commerce  
Arthur V. McKenna, President

North Randolph Improvement Ass'n.  
Carl Reichert, President

Boy Scout Troop, Trinity Church  
Donald Merriken, Scout Master

Boy Scout Troop, Baptist Church  
Oscar Rounds, Scout Master

North Randolph Troop, Boy Scouts  
Gordon Thayer, Scout Master

St. Mary's Troop, Boy Scouts  
Michael McSweeney, Scout Master

Randolph Girl Scouts and Brownies  
Mrs. Elizabeth Merriken, Commissioner

Randolph Rotary Club  
Paul E. Long, President

Norfolk Union Lodge, A. F. A. M.  
George F. Goody, Grand Master

Vera Cruz Council, K. of C.  
Fred Diauto, Grand Knight

St. Mary's Catholic Women's Club  
Miss Stella Krupka, President

Crawford Square Men's Club  
Walter Johnson, President

Rising Star Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 76  
James A. Thomson, Noble Grand

Randolph Grange, P. of H., No. 316  
Edward Cedarholm, Master

Women's Guild, Trinity Episcopal Church  
Mrs. Clara M. Nickerson, President

Men's Club, Trinity Episcopal Church  
William Thomas, President

Ladies' Library Association  
Mrs. Fred L. Whittemore, President



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

Ladies' Benevolent Association  
Mrs. Dorothy Mason, President

Junior Ladies' Library Association  
Miss Jean Smith, President

Randolph Soldiers' and Sailors' Association  
Thomas F. Scannell, President

Randolph Rationing Board  
George N. Welch, Chairman

Golden Star Lodge, Rebeccas  
Mrs. Alma Dixon, Noble Grand

Stetson Scholarship Fund Association  
Mrs. Alice Kelley, Secretary

Order of Eastern Star  
Mrs. Emma Swain, Worthy Matron

Conscious of the historical importance of this issue a number of organizations gave brief sketches of their history. It is to be regretted that more did not do so, since each item would have been a piece of the mosaic that makes Randolph. Those which appeared in the edition we give the more permanent record of this volume. We begin with Miss Stella



ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORTH RANDOLPH

American Red Cross  
Mrs. Sally Williamson, Production Chairman

American Red Cross Canteen  
Miss Viola Ruggles, Chairman

Mass. Women's Defense Corps  
Capt. Loretta Murphy

Randolph Victory Committee  
Theodore S. Luddington, Chairman

Randolph Visiting Nurse Association  
Helen Haney, President

### Krupka's history of THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB.

On November 19, 1912, on the Feast of St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary and a notable charitable worker, saw the birth of the first Catholic Women's Club of Randolph.

Miss Katherine E. Sheridan, a beloved teacher in Randolph's schools for many years and prominent in church work, had long talked of a literary society for the women of St. Mary's parish.

The young men of the parish had organized many years before as the Young Men's Catholic Lyceum. They had a library, presented plays and tried to advance through lecture courses an adult educational plan. A similar movement, Miss Sheridan felt, might interest the women, too.



With the assistance of the late Miss Sarah Bracken and Miss Helen M. Haney, the group was organized and, having been given permission by Mr. Frederick E. Chapin, the principal of Stetson High School, held the first meeting in the assembly hall of the school.

Among those who were present that night were: Miss Sheridan, Miss Sarah Bracken, Miss Helen M. Haney, Miss Catherine Hoye, Mrs. Thomas Whitty, Miss Katherine Kiley, Mrs. Thomas O'Brien, Miss Elizabeth G. Linehan, Miss Mary Sutton, Miss Rea Hogan, Miss Agnes Pope, Miss Margaret Good and Miss Mary Burke.

Disappointed because so few had come to the meeting the group decided that a club with much wider scope of endeavor than a literary society would attract more members. And so, what was intended to have been "The Adelaide Proctor Reading Circle", a revival of a former society of that name which had existed some years before, developed into the Women's Catholic Club of Randolph.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the club accepted as its aims, "Educational, Philanthropic and Social Advancement" — the last aim meaning the advancement of the social body of the community.

Elected as the club's first president, Miss Helen M. Haney was assisted by the following officers: First Vice-President, Miss Sarah Bracken; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Whitty; Recording Secretary, Miss Catherine Hoye; Financial Secretary, Miss Mary Sutton; First Treasurer, Mrs. George Higgins.

Under its aim toward educational advancement were speakers, vocal and instrumental music, courses by University Extension, and the reading of a paper prepared by a member. A library was also started.

In accomplishing its second aim, "Philanthropic Advancement", the club had launched on January 1, 1914, a VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION for the Town of Randolph. Again it was the idea of Miss Sheridan, and Miss Haney was delegated to go ahead with the work.

In addition to the promotion of the Randolph Visiting Nurse Association, a Friendly Aid and Visiting Society bought supplies for the needy.

The social affairs for children, especially at Christmas, were long remembered.

Among those who served as presidents in the first Catholic Club were: Miss Helen M. Haney, Mrs. George V. Higgins, Mrs. Hugh Doyle, Mrs. Katherine E. Scott, Mrs. John Kelly, Miss Jane Lynch, Miss Elizabeth Riley and Miss Catherine Hoye.

The club functioned for many years and with the passing of the oldest charter members the numbers dwindled.

A reorganization on November 30, 1937, under the spiritual director Rev. Joseph O'Brien took place. It is interesting to note that Miss Haney served as the link between the first club and the present one inasmuch as she was elected to one of its offices. The Pastor had hoped that such a club might be formed for Catholic women of the community under the patronage of the Blessed Mother of God for the purpose of religious, educational and social advancement.

This club was to be known as the Catholic Women's Club of Randolph.

The charitable work which is one of the club's chief purposes, has extended to countless civic and religious organizations. Participation in local drives has found the members doing their share.

The blind, the aged and the poor in this country, as well as missions in fields afar, have received gratefully all we could send.

A splendid canteen kitchen ready for war-time emergency was made available in St. Mary's Hall by the diligence of the clubwomen.

Current problems of world-wide interest and scope which have been presented by able speakers, courses, travel movies, exhibits and a Reading Circle helped members to realize the club's second aim — educational advancement.

Various affairs such as suppers, bowling teams, and monthly meetings bring about social advancement, the third aim — for one has an opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships.

Those who have been presidents in the newly organized club include: Miss Margaret Donovan, Mrs. James Brennan, Miss Anna Ginnetty, Miss Stella Krupka.

This organization is proud to have reached a membership of 302 and is now the largest active club in Randolph. It is also proud to be able to interest the teen-age as well as those advanced in years by offering programs of wide range.

A sketch of the Congregational women's group, the oldest organization of its kind in town, was prepared by Mrs. Raymond L. Mason.

## LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION DATES BACK TO 1799

Although the records show few authentic dates for the formation of the Ladies' Benevolent Association, as such an organization, there is definite mention in the historic records of the church, that women met as a society, in 1799, when the Female Cent Societies were being formed to support the birth of The Mass. Missionary Society. Dr. Jonathan Strong, who was then pastor of this church, was so influential in this agency that "his ladies rallied to the cause". The Female Prayer Meeting was organized about 1815 and for years a group of faithful women met at "the west corner" to maintain this weekly enterprise.

About the year 1882 there is strong indication that the Women's Missionary Society was formed, and records of this society tell of the twelfth chapter of Romans being used for the meditation for the first meeting.

It was from such background that the present Ladies' Benevolent Association was formed, and many of the tenets of that day are still the background for the Association.

The Ladies' Benevolent Association of 1943 is using for its theme for the year, "A Woman Needs Her Church", and it is stressing interest and education in both Foreign and Home Missions, as well as the opportunity for prayer and praise, fellowship and friendliness. The women of



the early days of this town had much the same interests and we of 1943, no doubt, are facing some of the same difficulties and challenges that they faced.

Transportation problems and a cold church were among their major problems, and the women of the present society face much the same thing in this war year.

Through the years the organization has always played its part in helping the needy of the parish, and in cooperating in worthy town enterprises. During the World War I, the women of this society formed a group to sew and knit, which later became the Red Cross branch of this town. Through the years they have consistently shared their goods as well as their gifts with those more needy, and innumerable missionary boxes have been packed and sent to schools, hospitals and mission posts all over the world. This latter work still goes on, although the modern method is to furnish a missionary school dining room with tablecloths or to furnish the nurse of some missionary hospital with a complete set of uniforms.

The factors that urged the women of the First Congregational Church in 1799 to band together as the Female Cent Society, still motivate the women of 1943 as they carry out the work of a Christian Women's Association proudly and with the hope that the years ahead will see the Town of Randolph as justly proud of her churches as she is today.

The present officers of the Ladies Benevolent Association are: President, Mrs. Raymond L. Mason; First Vice-President, Mrs. Clifford Dimmick; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Henry Merrill; Secretary, Mrs. Willie H. Geist; Treasurer, Mrs. Hans P. Christensen; Director, Mrs. Herbert F. Langley; Director, Mrs. Duncan H. MacDonald.

The Chairmen of Standing Committees are: Worship, Mrs. Joseph H. Shurtleff; Chancel Guild, Mrs. Frank W. Vye; Program, Mrs. Clifford Dimmick; Membership, Mrs. Joseph Cox; Properties, Mrs. N. Irving Tolman; Hospitality, Mrs. Ralph E. MacLeod; Tea and Refreshments, Mrs. Chester L. Paine; Home Economics, Mrs. Elmer Lamper; Robes, Mrs. B. A. Powers and Miss Helen E. White; Housekeeping, Miss Edith Hill and Mrs. Thomas F. Duke; Kindergarten, Mrs. Clark Freeman; Sewing, Mrs. Henry Schultz; Nominating, Mrs. George H. Chase; Special 150th Anniversary, Mrs. Raymond L. Mason, Mrs. Chester L. Paine, Miss Helen E. White, Mrs. Joseph Simmons, Mrs. Joseph Cox.

A relatively new but important organization was the Randolph Visiting Nurse Association.

#### SKETCH OF RANDOLPH VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

The Randolph Visiting Nurse Association made its initial bow to the public on January 1, 1914. The idea had been talked about for a year prior to that date by a group of women from various parts of the Town, but the very first organization to make a definite move in the matter was the Woman's Catholic Club of Randolph. And this is the way it began: The WCC had been organized on November 19, 1912, for "Educational, Philanthropic, and Social Advancement". Its first-named aim was covered by

a lecture course, and papers by the members. But what to do under the second aim of the club was the problem that was discussed one evening by the late Miss Katherine E. Sheridan, one of Randolph's beloved teachers, and the President of the WCC, Miss Helen M. Haney. Said Miss Sheridan — "I think that the biggest thing we could do for Randolph in a philanthropic way would be to inaugurate a visiting nurse association". Miss Haney agreed, and the subject was presented to the board of directors of the WCC, who appointed Miss Haney to contact other visiting nurse associations, ascertain procedures, and costs of operating, and to report to the group. Miss Haney contacted the late Mrs. Chas. Upham of Stoughton, Mass. Mrs. Upham was then the president of The Stoughton Visiting Nurse Association: she visited The Friendly Aid and Visiting Society of Braintree, Mass.; the Boston Instructive District Nurse Association, and other organizations furnishing a nursing service. She invited the late Mrs. Henry Belcher, who was then President of the Ladies' Library Association; the late Miss Sarah Belcher, a former popular school teacher of Randolph, and a splendid co-operator, and other members from The Ladies' Library Association, as well as the late Mrs. Asa P. French, the late Mrs. A. L. Chase, and others from the Old XL Club — to meet with a group from The Women's Catholic Club, and together they planned for a public meeting to present their research work, visiting-nurse-wise, to the people of Randolph.

In the meantime, the WCC had been working to raise money for the fund that would be needed to maintain a visiting nurse for one year. A lawn party was held on the grounds surrounding the former home of the late Mrs. Geo. V. Higgins on Warren Street, from which event the WCC realized the sum of \$85, the proceeds of a moving picture — \$15, netted \$100. But that amount was only one-tenth of what would be needed. (\$1000 in 1914 was the estimate of what it would cost to support a nurse for one year.)

The date of the public meeting was finally fixed for October, 1913. The vice-president of the National Visiting Nurse Association came up to Randolph from Providence, and occupied a seat on the stage with representatives from visiting nurse associations above mentioned. On request of Miss Sarah Belcher, the late Joseph Belcher, who had become very much interested in the proposition, presided and so conducted the meeting that the townspeople, after listening to the real good that a Visiting Nurse Association could do for a town, from the above-mentioned visiting nurse associations' representative, decided that if a group of men and women of the Town wished to have an organization devoted to visiting nurse work they had no objections. Miss Haney then made the proposition that when the amount from all sources reached \$1000, the Woman's Catholic Club of Randolph would donate \$100. And then contributions began to come in — Some gave \$10 — some \$5.00, more \$1.00. A treasury was being acquired.

Later a group of men and women met and organized: officers were elected, as follows: Miss Helen M. Haney, president; Mrs. Herbert F. French, first vice-president; Miss Katherine E. Sheridan, second vice-president; Miss Mary



Sutton (the late Mrs. William Bride), recording secretary; Frank W. Vye, treasurer; nurse committee chairman, Mrs. Ellen T. Proctor; finance committee, Herman W. French; supply committee, Mrs. Geo. V. Higgins; ways and means committee, Miss Elizabeth G. Linnehan.

A "Country Fair", with a souvenir booklet (cover in yellow, cartooning two country folk, in red and black, going to a fair), netted \$850, and the Randolph Visiting Nurse Association's financing for the first year was assured. Among the features of the "County Fair" was the specially constructed "Tea Room" operated by Mrs. Clinton D. Jordan and which aided the cause materially. Frank McCarthy represented the man on the Souvenir Program at the "Country Fair", and John Moore, the woman. That "Country Fair" was a gala event—it was held on the High School grounds, all the Town participating.

The very next thing to do was to secure a nurse. The members of the Nurse, Supply, and Ways and Means Committee met at the home of Miss Haney and considered the various applications which had been received, with the result that after much careful deliberation, the former Julia M. Leary, R. N. (now Mrs. Thomas H. Good), was selected. For the first four years, Miss Leary covered all of Randolph on foot; an automobile was not acquired until the outbreak of the flu epidemic, in 1918, to enable the nurse to cover more territory quicker—and then, too, Randolph was beginning to grow, especially its Northern Section. Miss Leary remained with the Association until June of 1935. She was succeeded by Beatrice Scannell, R. N., who has been with the Association since that time as Senior Visiting and Public Health Nurse; she is associated in this service to all of the people in Randolph by Grace Mahady, R. N. Together these nurses assist in the Pre-School Child Clinic, which is conducted monthly at the clubhouse of the Ladies' Library Association. This clinic was inaugurated by The Randolph Visiting Nurse Association back in the days of the First World War, with the former Miss Leary in charge; it was held, as now, in the rooms of The Ladies' Library Association.

The Randolph Visiting Nurse Association has kept pace with the growth of the Town. When the association was started—29 years ago—Randolph's population was about 4750—it is now nearly twice that number. The RVNA is ever alert to give the very best in nursing service to all of the people of Randolph, regardless of race, color, or creed.

The present principal officers of the Association are: Miss Helen M. Haney, president; Miss Grace E. Scannell, secretary; Benjamin P. Crowell, treasurer; Mr. E. J. Tierney and Mrs. Philip Boyle, Co-Chairmen of the Nurse Committee.

The Association holds in loving memory a former treasurer, who served for many years, faithfully and efficiently—the late James F. Kennedy.

An account of THE LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, together with a cut of its fine residence, was also printed.

The Ladies' Library Association was formed on December 3, 1855, by a group of women who met at the home

of a Mrs. Hendry, to form a club for the cultural betterment of the "ladies" of the town. It is the second oldest women's organization in the State of Massachusetts and the fourth oldest in the country.

Mrs. Christopher Cordley, wife of the minister of the First Congregational Church, was the first president. In 1911, Miss Annie Tower Tarbell presented the Association with the Jonathan Belcher homestead, which has served as their meeting place, since that date.

Some of the original furniture of the old Jonathan Belcher homestead is still used by the club and the old square piano is still located in the old Tarbell room.

An old dictionary, the first book in the library of the association, is put on display at special occasions, as is the rare steel engraving of Abraham Lincoln.

Miss Mabel T. Knight is the oldest member, in point of service and is the holder of the Pioneer Medal.

Mrs. Charles L. Wells is the historian for the association.

One of the most novel undertakings to be presented during the town's 150th anniversary, was conducted by the Ladies' Library Association members, when they presented a repetition of an old meeting held at their home on November 24, 1881. Mrs. Albert E. Johnson was in charge of this contribution.

Mrs. Fred L. Whittemore is now serving as president and Mrs. Alfred E. Johnson as vice-president.

Two outlying districts of the town have their organizations. The first is the North Randolph Improvement Association, which had an odd reason for its inception.

#### HIGH FARES REASON ASSOCIATION FORMED

Because the cost of transportation, from the north end of the town to Boston, was, in the opinion of those families who had settled in that community, exorbitant, and because a group of determined citizens of that settlement felt results could be obtained, only through a combined effort, the North Randolph Improvement Association was formed. The first meeting of this group was held during 1919, in a hall located where the present Ranvilla stands.

On June 25, 1920, the North Randolph Improvement Association was incorporated with the following charter incorporators: Linwood G. Brown, James P. Malloy, George A. Smith, Charles Webber, William S. Condon, Edwin Bertram, Hiram Porter, Walter Hetherington, Henry Blackely, Albert Williams, Albert Ameson, John L. Flynn, J. S. Roberts, James P. Duffy, C. W. Gabel, Joseph Genereaux, Edwin I. Ryder, Oscar A. Mahoney, J. W. Davis and Jeremiah G. Downey.

During that year, the land of the present site was purchased and in 1925 the present home of the Association was built. Linwood G. Brown served as the first president and since those days of nearly a quarter of a century ago, many betterment movements were motivated by this aggressive organization.

One of the leading citizens of North Randolph, who has always been a leader of any movement that would



cated off Warren Street in a building later used as a shoe factory by the Royal Shoe Co.

With railroad service non-existent on the line running formerly from Braintree Highlands to North Easton it may sound strange to the present generation to be informed that in the early eighties of the last century there was not only a well kept roadbed running through Randolph but that the pride of the then Old Colony Railroad, the Fall River Line Special, passed through each evening at 6:00 headed for Fall River and Newport, returning at 6:00 o'clock in the morning, many persons now living having been awakened on clear mornings by the shrill whistle of the "Boat Train". Incidentally, the Old Colony operated left-handed, trains leaving Randolph for Boston on the northerly track.

Some of our older residents can remember when the locomotives of the Old Colony proudly displayed the names of their officials, the one of particular interest to us being the "Royal W. Turner", named after one of our distinguished citizens, then vice-president of the railroad.

It is of course impossible to mention all persons who have helped the growth and development of Randolph, but we feel it only fair to call attention to the business developed by Eddy C. Young and expanded by his son. Mr. Young was a manufacturer of wooden boxes for the Shoe Trade. As this trade began to slacken he looked around for other methods of keeping himself and his men employed. The automobile was beginning to come into general use. Many homes were without garages and many barns had been torn down. Mr. Young set about to provide garages so that at this time it is difficult to discover an area of any size within miles where there is not a wooden monument to Mr. Young's foresightedness. This firm is now specializing in poultry and farm buildings due to war-time restrictions.

To the best of our knowledge Randolph has had only one of its citizens elected to the Massachusetts Senate, Hon. J. White Belcher. Mr. Belcher was a public-spirited man, many times a Selectman, President of the Randolph Savings Bank and of the Turner Library Trustees for many years, also president of the Norfolk Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of Dedham, Mass. In connection with the latter position, it might be well to mention that through his offices there was paid the first recorded claim by any insurance company for damage caused by lightning where no fire resulted, in the United States.

Among the not-to-be-forgotten men who contributed to the success of the Town when it was a business force in this State was Daniel H. Huxford, editor of the Randolph Register and Holbrook News. Huxford was a native of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, and published the best paper that this town ever boasted. It was not a side issue with him but his bread and butter and he put his whole soul into it. Many a laugh has been had over "John Doe is a guest of his parents on West Street" and similar recitals, nevertheless over a period of years the real worth of Huxford and his paper becomes appreciated. Copies are on file in our Public Library and would well repay one for a few minutes spent in their perusal.

At present the town is being served by two weekly

newspapers: The Tri-Town Weekly, edited and published by Theodore S. Luddington, and the Randolph Herald, edited and published by Augustus H. Sullivan.

Assuming no little part in the growth and development of the town was Mark B. Claff, and those succeeding him who bear his name. Mr. Claff established the business of paper box manufacturing, later acquiring the factory on West Street which with its enlargements constitutes the headquarters of the M. B. Claff & Sons Co. Mr. Claff was noted for his public spirit and willingness to lend his personal and financial aid in any cause affecting the Public Welfare. He and his firm have been large employers of labor and are heavy taxpayers. Their business has expanded not only in volume but in field covered. They now operate one of the most up-to-date lithographing plants in Eastern Massachusetts. They supply boxes and cartons for a great variety of trades.

In its transition from a business to a residential Town, one of, and perhaps the most important event or events, was the opening up and development of that large area now known as "North Randolph". The earlier settlers were mostly looking for a pleasant place to spend the summer and the first cottages were not built to withstand winter weather. Later, as more settlers came and bonds of friendship developed, many decided that they would prefer to remain all the year. The more or less temporary homes were rebuilt or replaced and a village of more than 1,500 people now exists where probably less than 100 lived a few years ago. The spiritual needs of this area are served by the new Parish of Saint Bernadette and the various Protestant Churches of the Town.

The Randolph Savings Bank is our oldest continuing bank. It was founded April 14, 1851, and shortly after its 75th anniversary moved from its old quarters in the Turner Library Building to the present attractive edifice on North Main Street.

The Randolph Co-operative Bank celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1939 and moved into its present building in 1941. This bank has been the means for many persons to become home-owners who might otherwise have remained tenants all their lives.

Largely through the efforts of the late Charles D. Hill the Randolph Trust Company was established and chartered in 1915. This is the first commercial bank to operate here since the liquidation of the Randolph National Bank prior to the turn of the century. This bank serves surrounding towns as well as Randolph.

The Randolph Fire Department bought its first piece of motor-driven apparatus in 1916, and became completely motorized in 1923. There are now five men permanently employed. Chief Harold L. Bailey celebrates 26 years of consecutive service on October 10, 1943.

The Randolph Schools have been modernized in recent years. Stetson High School, Charles G. Devine School, Daniel J. McNeil School and Tower Hill School are all of modern brick construction.

In the earlier days of the Temperance Movement two clergymen of the town were very active, Rev. Fr. O'Brien of St. Mary's and the Rev. J. C. Labaree of the First Congregational Church.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

During the influenza epidemic that followed the World War, a local physician, Dr. Frank C. Granger, did splendid work.

He was on duty day and night, not having time to take off his clothes between rushing from one victim to another. He was given great assistance by the first visiting nurse the present Mrs. Thomas Good, who learned to drive at night in order to be of help.

Five men paid the supreme sacrifice during the First World War: John Douglas Crawford, Thomas Whitty Desmond, Charles Gabriel Devine, Hugh Alexander MacDonald, Daniel Joseph McNeil. John D. Crawford, for whom Crawford Square is named, was killed in action in Cantigny, May 27, 1918. He was cited for bravery, and

Commonwealth if the applicant is appointed as a ward of the state. His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell is President and Treasurer and Sister Mary Oswald is Principal of the School.

The Randolph Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1930 and has participated in the civic and industrial undertakings of the town.

In a treatment of this limited length, it is necessary that a number of interesting factors and organizations be omitted. Randolph has civic organizations and fraternal organizations comparable to other towns of its size. Its population has increased in recent years, and if the tide over the Blue Hills



THE NEW FIRE STATION

Post No. 3389, V. F. W., was named in his honor in 1936. On the same day in 1918 near the same spot Thomas W. Desmond was killed. Post 169, American Legion, was named in his honor at its founding in 1922.

The American Legion was the means of providing an ambulance for the town of Randolph which plays a vital part in our town life.

The Boston School for the Deaf was established and incorporated in 1899 to instruct deaf children of both sexes. The applicants must be too deaf to be instructed in public schools and must be of such mentality as to be capable of profiting by instruction. Board and tuition is paid by the

continues for a decade more, Randolph will more than pass the 10,000 mark in population.

Three poems found a place in this 150th Anniversary Observance Edition issue which may be commented on. One was an anonymous contribution of considerable merit "To a Dead Flier". The second was a scholarly translation from the Odes of Horace Book IV, 7, by F. H. McMahon, an old resident then living in the "dark Dakotas". Since no less an authority than Prof. Bliss Perry praised



it and called it the "Randolph Poem" we may present it here.

TO TORQUATUS

"Diffugere nives, redeunt iam gramina campis"  
Gone are the snows, and green again the grass,  
The little leaves gleam on Aunt Hannah's hill,  
And Prior's Brook leaps down the jagged pass  
From where was once The Mill.

On such a morn, of old, the graces gay  
And nymphs rejoicing capered without clothes on;  
But we, too deep in thought, rebuke the way  
Our round of seasons goes on;

Hours rob the day — soon stealeth summer on —  
Then autumn —later Beals' Pond will freeze—  
First thing you know another year is gone;  
You can not keep what is.

Moons wax and wane. And, after heat and cold  
And all our swift routine of joy and cark,  
We, too, become, as are the men of old,  
Part of the dust and dark.

Who knows if he may see tomorrow's sun  
O'er the Broad Meadows in new glory burn,  
What heir will squander when your race is run  
The hoarded cash you earn?

High-born, or rich, athletic, eloquent,  
Or just a common chap like me — don't doubt it  
We'll go down North Street when our days are spent  
With nary a say about it.

Above old John L. Sullivan the sod  
Is green in Abington. Not might and main  
Like his can bring to April paths once trod  
Departed friends again.

The third poem was written by Pvt. Elbert Warren Hall while on service in the jungles of New Guinea. The poem is too long to quote, but it tells with power and vividness the feelings of a boy in the jungle dusk, tired and thirsty, beset by snipers, and in constant peril of attack; yet finding spiritual consolation in dreams of home, and a refusal to be conquered by hate.

Tucked away in various places in the edition were a number of fillers, but since they contain odds and ends of information which will be lost unless preserved here, they are recorded. They are the little items which sober historians neglect, but which have an interest out of proportion to their importance. One told of the number of Randolphs in the country.

RANDOLPH HOW MANY

Scattered throughout the United States there are six municipalities named Randolph.

On the east bank of the Kennebec River, is Randolph, Maine.

Northwest of Omaha, Nebraska, is the city of Randolph, with a population of less than 2000 persons.

The village of Randolph, New York, is located south of Buffalo.

Randolph, Vermont, in the central part of that state is famous for the manufacture of reproductions of early American furniture.

Northeast of Madison, Wisconsin, the village of Randolph, Wisconsin, is located near the Beaverdam Lake.

Randolph, Massachusetts, is most populated of all towns with that name.

Another, with a picture, told of the Howard House.

REMEMBER WHEN

The old Howard House, one of Randolph's landmarks, which for many years stood on the site of the present White House Jenney Gas Station. Known at one time as Jacob's Tavern and was situated on Tripe Hill, now Crawford Square.

In the old days, travellers from Bridgewater and places south, would make the famous old hostelry, their first stop en route to Boston, to procure "refreshments for man and beast".

The brothers, Brad and Joe Hathaway, were "mine hosts" of the Howard House for years and many famous guests spent enjoyable times in the historic thirty-room hotel.

Frank Connors was the last proprietor of the Howard House, before it was demolished in 1925.

Perhaps the next section will test the memory of the readers of this volume.

DO YOU KNOW . . .

That the Cochato and Ponkapoag Indian tribes lived in Randolph?

That the Spotless Town is North Randolph?

That New Dublin runs from Silver to Fowler Streets on Warren Street?

That Goose Corner is located at the junction of West and Cross Streets?

That the Gibson property on West Street is known as Grand Canyon?

That Horse Heaven is down on Mill Street?

That King's Hill is in back of the transformers in the rear of the cemeteries?

That the Cochato River runs through Broad Meadows to South Braintree?

That the correct name is Sister Nadi Road . . . not Cincinnati?

That Dr. Ebenezer Alden owned the land where the present Stetson High School stands?

That the old Boston and Taunton turnpike stagecoaches stopped at the Mansion House on Tower Hill, near the junction of High and Lafayette, opposite the Chapel?



A rather sketchy account of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman appears in the edition. But so brief an article cannot give Miss Wilkins her full due as a major American writer, nor does it state that "Pembroke", like many of her tales, was purely a Randolph story, but thinly disguised. It might be annoying to good Randolph citizens to realize that no less an authority than Van Wyck Brooks, in his definite volume, "New England Indian Summer", declares, from evidence taken from Miss Wilkins' powerful and bitter stories, that Randolph was the perfect example of a New England town gone to seed. Mary E. Wilkins Freeman was a writer of distinction, and her acid studies of people consumed by poverty and pride will always have a place in American literature.

#### MARY WILKINS FREEMAN

No record of Randolph's history would be complete without the story of Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, American author. Mary Eleanor Wilkins was born in Randolph on October 31, 1852, in what is now the Tolman House.

She was a pupil in the No. 1 schoolhouse for eight years and then entered Stetson High School. At the age of seventeen, Mary Wilkins moved with her family to Brattleboro, Vt. After attending Mt. Holyoke Seminary for one year, she began to write verses and stories for children. Many were published in the St. Nicholas and Chatterbox magazines.

In 1883, after the death of her sister, mother and father, she returned to Randolph to live with her childhood playmate, Mary John Wales, on South Main Street. Among her stories, which were published by Harper Bros., were "A Humble Romance and Other Stories", "A New England Nun and Other Stories" and the novels "Jane Field" and "Pembroke".

On January 1, 1902, she married Dr. Charles Freeman and moved to his home in Metuchen, N. J., where she spent the remainder of her life. Prior to her death she was awarded the William D. Howells gold medal for distinction in fiction.

She died on March 14, 1930, and a few years after her death the American Academy of Arts and Letters bestowed further honors on her by dedicating to "the Memory of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and the Women Writers of America" magnificent bronze doors, placed at the entrance of their building in New York.

Her tales of rural New England, realistic, honest and convincing, have a definite place in American literature and in the history of the short story.

Her home in Randolph from 1883 to 1902, is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Cole on South Main Street.

This chapter, as has been previously stated, is but a slightly condensed and edited form of the Anniversary Edition of the Randolph Herald and Tri-Town Weekly. It is not history, nor is it intended to be. It is, in a sense, old news, and when it is much older another chronicler may distill history from it. We are yet too near 1943 to have a historical perspective. The account of the Sesqui-centennial has been given in full for the same reason that the Centennial year of 1893 was so amply recorded, namely, that because of the richness of detail something of the essential flavor and quality of the town might be kept, elements that might be strained out by too fine a net of editorial selectivity.

As one compares the Centennial and Sesqui-centennial years, he is aware of the vast and dismaying changes that half a century has seen. In 1893 Randolph was a pleasant rural town in a stable world. In 1943 Randolph was a civic unit of a nation girded for total war. Her sons and daughters were in the far places of the earth—the snows and gales of the Arctic, the coral atolls of the Pacific, the deserts of North Africa, the mud and mountains of Europe, the steaming jungles of Burma, — and they were on all heaving and submarine-haunted seas. And every hour of the day and night, the radio brought news of what was happening to them in the various theatres of war, and what they were accomplishing. The pleasant insularity of Randolph was destroyed; her town limits were the great globe itself. For good and for ill, Randolph became a part of one world in those war years. And while the people of Randolph were working in the war effort, an age was coming to an end, for the scientists of the Manhattan project were desperately toiling at the problem of nuclear fission, and the Atomic age was soon to dawn apocalyptically.





## *Epilogue—A Period of Change—1944-1951*

THE world beyond Randolph has changed since the observance of the Sesquicentennial. The greatest and most sinister change has been the alteration of relations between the United States and Russia. During the period dealt with by the previous chapter of this volume, Russia was "Our heroic ally"; we glowed at the defense of Sevastopol, and we were in such a mood that we were later willing to delay our own triumphal entry into conquered Berlin, unaware of the propaganda use Russia would make of our generosity. Nor could we know at the time of the infiltration of Communist ideology into the minds of men in high places; we did not dream that prominent Americans could be guilty of treason. Nor did we think that ere five years had passed our men would be battling against Communist-inspired troops on the bleak hills of Korea. And this state of tension is rendered well-nigh intolerable by the fact that both parties possess, in the atomic bomb, and other weapons of fission and bacteriology, the means of ending modern civilization. When the first A-bomb reared its titanic mushroom shape into the sky over Hiroshima on that August morning in 1945, something terrifying came into the world, and Randolph is no more free from the deadly possibilities of atomic warfare than any other town on this wide earth.

But our concern is primarily parochial, and so we turn to the changes in the local scene. Randolph is a growing town. The first census return of 1950 set the population at 10,007, but the final revised figure was 9982. At the time of this writing (November, 1951) informed estimate sets the population at "close to 11,000". Randolph has long been a "bedroom" town, rather than an industrial suburb of Boston, and the process of expansion has been accelerated during the post-war years. A phenomenal growth has been noted particularly in the many new housing areas. New developments have been set up off Mill Street, off South Street, off Canton Street (now named Randolph Heights), on South Main Street proper and on adjacent areas. There is a development on Oak Street, and North Randolph in general has been the scene of much new

building. Since these small new houses are frequently bought by young couples starting married life, the probability is that there will be a marked increase in births in addition to the numbers of persons moving to Randolph.

This growth has led to an important change in the political structure of the town. In 1947 the old-fashioned town meeting, in which every citizen had a right to participate, gave way to the representative town meeting, in which only those elected as town-meeting members have the right to participate. This is a pattern adopted by many New England towns. When the community reaches such a size that the voting membership cannot conveniently be housed in the town hall, or of such a size that even if a sufficiently capacious auditorium is available the group is too large for efficient deliberative assembly, the only recourse is to reduce the number of persons having a right to the floor. The efficiency of the representative form of town government is definitely greater than that of the old unlimited town meeting, while it retains the value of having a larger percentage of the voters take an informed part in policy making than is possible under the city form of government.

None the less, the narrator of Randolph history cannot refrain from a feeling of sadness at the breaking of this link with the past. The New England town meeting was probably the purest expression of democracy in the entire history of the human race, not even excepting the democracy of the city states of Greece. It was the finest expression of trust in the common man yet spoken by any body politic. Unwieldy and raucous as the old town meeting often was, nevertheless it provided every citizen a place in the deliberative assembly of the community. It afforded an opportunity for the ancient and significant "right to grumble", or to put it more formally, it embodied the tradition of dissent. Aggrieved, or under the burden of civic concern, the citizen could "say his say" without let or hindrance. The modern representative town meeting, streamlined and efficient as it is, is a less perfect outlet of community concern or com-



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

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ministration than the board of selectmen of a New England town. In Randolph for more than a century and a half the selectmen have been men who have served primarily as a civic duty. The pay is too low to be an inducement; graft is virtually impossible with budgets open to discussion and attack on the town-meeting floor. The office of selectman has demonstrated through the years that it is worthy of continued existence.

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THE SQUARE IN 1950

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change in the physical appearance of North Main Street in the business district. It is now a generous six lanes wide, and at night purple vapor lamps light it without glare. In the adjourned town meeting of 1949 it was unanimously voted to have the Commonwealth of Massachusetts take over North Main Street from Crawford Square to the railroad bridge north of Depot Street and to widen the street westerly for a distance of twenty feet. This action was greatly needed as the heavy north and south traffic on Route 28 had been a cause of frequent congestion. The widening of Main Street to Depot Street has been accomplished as this is



## *Epilogue—A Period of Change—1944-1951*

THE world beyond Randolph has changed since the observance of the Sesquicentennial. The greatest and most sinister change has been the alteration of relations between the United States and Russia. During the period dealt with by the previous chapter of this volume, Russia was "Our heroic ally"; we glowed at the defense of Sevastopol, and we were in such a mood that we were later willing to delay our own triumphal entry into conquered Berlin, unaware of the propaganda use Russia would make of our generosity. Nor could we know at the time of the infiltration of Communist ideology into the minds of men in high places; we did not dream that prominent Americans could be guilty of treason. Nor did we think that ere five years had passed our men would be battling against Communist-inspired troops on the bleak hills of Korea. And this state of tension is rendered well-nigh intolerable by the fact that both parties possess, in the atomic bomb, and other weapons of fission and bacteriology, the means of ending modern civilization. When the first A-bomb reared its titanic mushroom shape into the sky over Hiroshima on that August morning in 1945, something terrifying came into the world, and Randolph is no more free from the deadly possibilities of atomic warfare than any other town on this wide earth.

But our concern is primarily parochial, and so we turn to the changes in the local scene. Randolph is a growing town. The first census return of 1950 set the population at 10,007, but the final revised figure was 9982. At the time of this writing (November, 1951) informed estimate sets the population at "close to 11,000". Randolph has long been a "bedroom" town, rather than an industrial suburb of Boston, and the process of expansion has been accelerated during the post-war years. A phenomenal growth has been noted particularly in the many new housing areas. New developments have been set up off Mill Street, off South Street, off Canton Street (now named Randolph Heights), on South Main Street proper and on adjacent areas. There is a development on Oak Street, and North Randolph in general has been the scene of much new

building. Since these small new houses are frequently bought by young couples starting married life, the probability is that there will be a marked increase in births in addition to the numbers of persons moving to Randolph.

This growth has led to an important change in the political structure of the town. In 1947 the old-fashioned town meeting, in which every citizen had a right to participate, gave way to the representative town meeting, in which only those elected as town-meeting members have the right to participate. This is a pattern adopted by many New England towns. When the community reaches such a size that the voting membership cannot conveniently be housed in the town hall, or of such a size that even if a sufficiently capacious auditorium is available the group is too large for efficient deliberative assembly, the only recourse is to reduce the number of persons having a right to the floor. The efficiency of the representative form of town government is definitely greater than that of the old unlimited town meeting, while it retains the value of having a larger percentage of the voters take an informed part in policy making than is possible under the city form of government.

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written and preparations are being made to widen the railroad bridge. An adjourned town meeting in March, 1950, empowered the selectmen "to acquire by gift, purchase, or to take by right of eminent domain" the necessary parcels of land, and the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated for this purpose.

North Main Street now has a new look, and in all honesty it cannot be said that in every respect the new look is superior to the old. Photographs taken at the turn of the century show this stretch of road to have been lined with fine trees, now sacrificed to progress. There is a price to pay for efficiency. The sky is curiously empty over Main Street now. The ancient elms, that once gave it distinction, are gone, and it will be many a year before great green trees once more arch against the blue.

The widening of the street made necessary the removal of the U. S. post office from its position. The following account in the Randolph Herald for August 31, 1951, is worthy of insertion here.

"Hundreds of guests and townspeople attended the flag-raising and dedication exercises of the new Randolph post-office Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock. After 41 years in the former location at the corner of Warren and North Main Streets, the new office opened Monday morning in the new building on the new Memorial Parkway, near Crawford Square.

"Opening with a band concert from 1:45 to 2 o'clock there were numerous selections by the Stetson High School Band under the direction of the bandmaster, Myron B. Thomas. Rev. Leo O'Leary, pastor of St. Mary's Church, gave the invocation.

"The flag raising was conducted by three commanders of local veteran posts, Commander Norman LaBrique of the Lt. Thomas W. Desmond Post, American Legion; Commander Joseph Simmons of the Lt. John D. Crawford V.F.W. Post, and Commander Howard Arey, Jr., of AMVETS Post 61.

"Chairman of the board of selectmen, Orrin B. White, gave the address of welcome and served as master of ceremonies. The facilities of the new building with new equipment, he said, was obtained through the untiring efforts of Randolph's postmaster, Margaret R. Brewster.

"Selectman White introduced Charles Tenney, postal inspector who negotiated the lease for the building. Hon. John J. Donnelly of Walpole, president of the Mass. Association of Postmasters, was

the next speaker. Mr. Donnelly lauded Mrs. Brewster for exacting performance of her duties, for attending all meetings of postmasters and thereby keeping abreast with all new information.

"Others introduced included Selectman Ralph Hutchinson, Assessor Theodore S. Luddington, Rep. Roy G. Smith and the postmasters of this area.

"Rector David B. Matthews of Trinity Episcopal Church gave the benediction and the exercise closed with selections by the band. Large numbers then inspected the new building.

"The personnel at the new postoffice will include: Postmaster, Margaret R. Brewster; assistant, William W. Burchell; clerks, Edmund F. Derocher, Elmer T. White, John E. McGerigle, Charles E. Hand and Charles E. Foley; carriers, George W. Corcoran, William A. O'Connell, Richard P. Hart, Thomas B. Fay, Eric J. Johnson, John R. Teed, Andrew J. Maguire; rural carrier, Oscar Reiser.

"Members of the High School Band, who participated, were Hugh Lynch, Charles Connors, Albert Rodd, David Lynch, Carlton Richardson, Richard Harris, George Brewster, Richard Cederholm, Marilyn Larsen, Sandra Corey, Kenneth Burrill, Robert Sullivan, Janet Isaac, George Cormey, Edward Gray, Louise Frye and Earl Magnussen, Robert Briggs of Middleboro, cornetist, accompanied the bandmaster, Myron B. Thomas."

Writing several years ago, this chronicler ventured the prophecy that Italian names would play a prominent part in the Randolph of the future. The splendid new Frank and Lucia Diauto buildings on Memorial Drive are one fulfillment of that prophecy. These were erected by Mr. Michael Diauto in memory of his father and mother. The Lucia Diauto building now houses the Post Office. It may be noted that these buildings are on land which was originally part of the Benjamin F. Hayden estate. It was in 1908 that the late Frank Diauto purchased the grain business of B. F. Hayden. The Diautos in 1898 opened a coal and grain business on Warren Street, and the history of this family is but one example out of many demonstrating the manner in which the later comers to Randolph have added to the strength of the town.

A part of Randolph's new look is Imrie Square, a result of the impact of world conditions on the town. The Tri-Town Weekly of October 11, 1951, makes the following report of the dedicatory exercises.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

"Imrie Square" was dedicated Sunday afternoon with appropriate exercises conducted by the John D. Crawford V.F.W. Post in memory of Cpl. Robert Imrie, first Randolph man killed in Korea.

"The exercises were conducted in V.F.W. Hall due to the bad weather. Joseph Simmons, commander, welcomed the parents of Robert J. Imrie, for whom the square was named, and also welcomed all gold star mothers and guests.

"The program opened with selections by the Stetson High Band with Myron B. Thomas, director, in charge. Rev. Frederick Bishop, pastor of the First Congregational Church, gave the invoca-

Pelisier and Mrs. Murray Lewis, who were presented orchid corsages by Comrade Casper.

"Commander William Russell, of Quincy V.F.W. Post, and Walter Feeley, Norfolk County Commander of the V.F.W., were introduced and conveyed their condolences to the parents of Corporal Imrie. Others introduced were Norman LaBrequé, Commander of Desmond Legion Post; Howard Arey, and Mrs. Mary Piotti, President of Crawford Post Auxiliary.

"Town officials introduced were Orrin White, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and Roger Lutz and Ralph Hutchinson, selectmen; Rev. David



MEMORIAL DRIVE AND THE POST OFFICE IN 1952

tion and Rev. Eugene S. Philbrook, S. T. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church, gave a scripture reading.

"Mrs. Marion Lutz sang 'The Lord's Prayer', accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Myron B. Thomas. Commander Simmons called upon Walter Casper, who presented Mrs. Imrie a bouquet of American Beauty roses in behalf of the Crawford Post. Commander Simmons then introduced the following gold star mothers, Mrs. Louise Johnston, Mrs. Helen

B. Matthews, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church of which young Imrie was a member. Rev. Matthews was the principal speaker.

"There were selections by the Stetson High School Band and Benediction was by Rev. Leo A. O'Leary, pastor of St. Mary's Church.

"Corporal Imrie attended the Randolph schools and served with distinction during World War II, including sixteen months on the island of Okinawa. Following a brief return to civilian life, he re-enlisted in the Army and at the outbreak of the Korean



war was stationed in Japan as a member of the 386th combat team with the Second Division.

"He won the Bronze and Silver Stars for courage on Korean battlefields. Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Imrie, 63 South Street, parents of the young hero, will go to New York in the near future to accept posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross."

The North Randolph fire station is another new building. A committee previously appointed made its report at the adjourned town meeting of 1950 and it was voted that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,500 for the construction and equipping of a two-door fire station in North Randolph. The growth of this neighborhood rendered a new station necessary. This protection of property is a long step from that day in 1844 when A. E. Buboia complained that at a meeting called to organize the volunteer bucket companies, only one other person beside himself had appeared. The committee appointed in 1949 consisted of the following:

#### NORTH RANDOLPH FIRE STATION COMMITTEE

Chief Harold L. Bailey, Deputy Chief Carl Harris, George Foley, Joseph Curran, Arthur Murphy, George Cullen, Edward Roycroft, Paul Klauer, William Hurry, Harold Brewster, Carl Gove, George N. Welch, Michael Diauto, Leslie Claff, James J. Kilcoyne, James W. S. Roberts, Charles Preble.

But by far the most impressive addition to the town's assets is the new Junior-Senior High School on Memorial Drive. Randolph has always had a typically New England attitude toward the importance of education, and it may be recalled that the first money ever voted by the new town in its first town meeting in 1793 was the sum of 50 pounds for the schools. For long it had been felt that the Prescott Junior High School was unfit for use, and that the practice of spending money for its repair was unsound. The total school population of Randolph in 1950 was 1989, with further increase clearly on the way.

A dramatic proposal for handling the matter of an education plant was proposed by the School Planning and Building Committee appointed at the 1949 town meeting by Moderator William S. Condon. This committee consisted of the original survey committee and twelve new members. The committee underwent some changes of personnel but at the

time of issuing its "progressive report" the committee was as follows:

#### SCHOOL PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

CLARK FREEMAN, *Chairman*

THEODORE S. LUDDINGTON, *Vice-Chairman*

EILEEN COURTNEY, *Secretary*

Alson Alden	William F. Maguire
Adolph Christiansen	Roland Marden
C. Lloyd Claff	Alice Martin
James Cotter	Ernest C. Martin
James V. Donovan	Oscar Meissner
Irwin T. Dorch	Arthur Murphy
William Foley	Carroll Paine
Walter J. Good	Charles Preble
John Hannon	Marino Rota
Arthur Hoeg	Edward Roycroft
Ernest H. Hylen	Thomas Scannell
Frank Johnson	Joseph J. Semensi
Francis Leahy	Herbert Sheehan
Murray Lewis	George White
William J. Lynch	Harold L. White
Culbert Macy	Martin E. Young

The committee based its action on a survey made by Dr. Charles Reeves of Griffenhagen and Associates, for which survey the sum of \$5000 had been voted in 1948. The site chosen for the School was the estate of Mrs. Sally Crawford, a beautiful tract of 14 acres in the center of the town and adjoining the athletic field of the present Stetson High School. If a personal reminiscence is not out of place in a civic chronicle, let it be said that the historian remembers with pleasure walking in the fine old formal garden which once bloomed on the spot now occupied by the new high school. The sum of \$32,500 was appropriated for this purpose at a special town meeting on July 18, 1949. On this site it was decided to erect a 1200 pupil Junior-Senior High School. A special town meeting held March 20, 1950, approved of the project and voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,305,000.00 for the purpose of construction. Necessary legal arrangements for receiving state assistance were also made.

Mr. Harry J. Korslund, of Norwood, an architect noted for his modern and economical school construction, was engaged for the work. A detailed description of the building was made in the progressive report and hence is not necessary here.



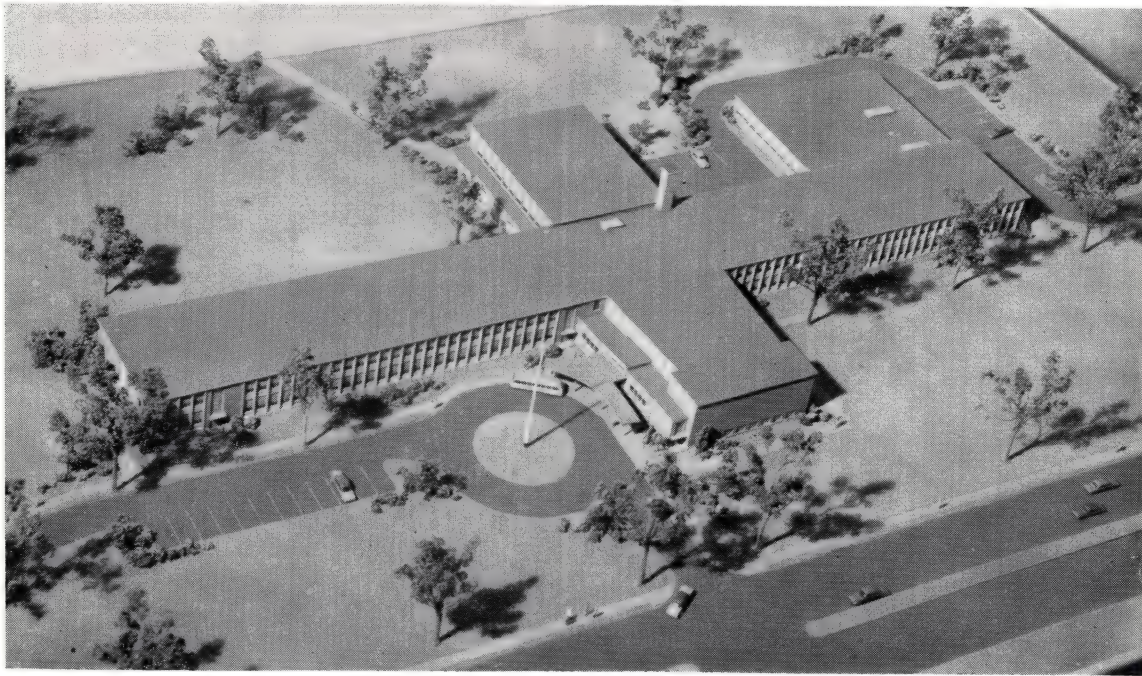
## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

In general it may be said that the building is functional in design for efficiency in use and for economy in first cost and operation. It will lend itself easily to expansion. The building contains 27 classrooms on two floors, together with laboratories, shops, home economics rooms, and a health center. A spacious gymnasium and an auditorium seating 1000 persons provide long-needed facilities for the Town of Randolph. The School Planning and Building Committee has worked wisely and energetically, and the town is well equipped to handle the expansion in population which may be ex-

shows. (The pound is reckoned at \$2.80, the quotation on November 19, 1951.)

1728 .....	\$28.00 (10 pounds)
1793 .....	\$980.00 (50 pounds)
1851 .....	\$10,000.00
1951 .....	\$1,142,817.37

The last figure, furnished by the Selectmen, provides a thought-provoking contrast with the first figure. Of course, only a technical expert could calculate the purchasing power, or true value, of the pound of 1728 as compared with the dollar of 1951. The statistically-minded may play with these



THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL, 1952

pected in the years ahead. The committee has successfully met the challenge of the changing times.

Ground was broken for the new school on November 8, 1950, the baccalaureate service for the Class of 1952 was held in the auditorium, and the building was put into academic use in September 1952.

One change which goes back beyond the Sesquicentennial is the change in the cost of running the town. We have kept a running score of town expenses during the course of this history, and we now make a final tabulation. The first vote to raise money was made in January, 1728, when it was voted to "raise Ten Pounds to Defray the necessary Charges for the Year Ensuing". Since then costs have mounted as the following brief table

figures as they choose, but the basic fact of the enormous increase of the cost of local government is plain. It has literally increased a hundredfold in the last century.

There is, as we have previously indicated, a good ground for this multiplied expense. The ground is the growing complexity of modern government, local, state, and federal. The old American principle of "the least government is the best government" no longer has substantial advocacy. The complexity and attendant expense of running a town grows out of the demands the citizen makes on the town government. He insists upon services his fathers did not dream of, or if they did, considered impossible luxuries.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

The careful student of Randolph history cannot but be impressed by the increase of officers and committees since the first town report in 1793. Old reliable offices and committees such as fence viewers, surveyors of wood and bark, and supremely, the selectmen, still survive, although only the latter have any administrative meaning. But the wide areas of protection of persons and property, and health and sanitation, are completely ignored in the early reports, or if officers dealing with these matters were elected, they were unpaid. The Randolph of yesterday did not have the protection of those departments now under the sustained and efficient administration of Chief of Police Patrick T. McDonnell and Fire Chief Harold L. Bailey. In

peals, Zoning Laws, and others are done by men of public spirit. And speaking of volunteer committees, one wonders what the shades of such ancient worthies as Rev. Elisha Eaton, Col. Samuel Bass, and Dr. Ebenezer Alden would make of such exotic offices as "Coordinator of Air Ground Service Station," "Parking Meter Committee," and "Electrical Wiring Regulations Committee." And with this juxtaposition of the old and the new we bring our chronicle to a close.

This final chapter is written during a period of great change, both local and global. The times are very turbulent. But Randolph, like many another American town, began life in years of revolution and war, and grew strong through generations



STETSON HALL (AT FAR LEFT), CRAWFORD SQUARE, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
AND TURNER FREE LIBRARY, 1952

the area of school activity and cost, the greatest single section of a town's work and expense, we can see prolific expansion of field and employment of specialists. The history of the school system of Randolph (only casually touched on in this book) would afford some person seeking a doctorate a virgin field of study in the increasing complexity and expense of education in a typical New England town.

It is worth noting that if it were not for the volunteer work of citizens the cost of running Randolph would either be greater, or some work would be left undone. The labors of the Finance Committee, the Planning Board, the Board of Ap-

of crisis and frustration. It partakes of the toughness of the democratic tradition which, we trust, will survive even this century of unparalleled social upheaval. Perhaps, when the two hundredth anniversary of incorporation is celebrated, the vast oscillations of society will have ceased, and 1993 may have something of the stability and peace of 1893. The future is too dark and unsettled for detailed prophecy to be an act of wisdom, but of this we can be certain: that if Randolph's sons keep the fierce strong love of liberty under God that the founding fathers had, tomorrow, whatever it may bring, will be met with strength and adequacy.

THE END



The military history of Randolph falls outside the scope of the present volume. Nevertheless, for the sake of convenient reference it has been deemed wise to gather the names of the veterans of modern wars between the covers of a single volume. No record of those presently engaged in the Korean War is available. These lists have been compiled by Mrs. Clara Nickerson, clerk to the selectmen.

## CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Cottle, Edmund  
Alden, Hiram C.  
Grady, Charles H.  
White, James W.  
Pratt, Richmond T.  
Hoage, Samuel R.  
Horton, Joshua  
Dargan, James F.  
Belcher, Francis A.  
Clark, S. M.  
Thayer, J. W.  
Mann, Nelson  
Spear, George C.  
White, Samuel  
Thayer, Warren, Jr.  
Prescott, Charles  
Alden, W. H.  
Dargan, Joseph W.  
Rogers, Martin  
Pool, Marcus M.  
Holbrook, Leroy A.  
Pratt, Abram W.  
Brinker, George F.  
Alexander, Thomas  
Hooker, Edwin B.  
Buck, A. Everett  
Miller, Charles  
Thayer, Charles H.  
Hawes, Samuel E.  
Thayer, James R.  
Hollis, Myron W.  
Burrell, George A.  
Winnett, M. W.  
Thayer, Leonard  
Bigelow, F. A.  
Sprague, A. H.  
Payne, A. A.  
Sullivan, P. E.  
Jones, Rufus I.  
Ward, Eugene F.  
Thayer, Henry M.  
Foster, Samuel A.  
Hunt, Lewis W.  
Thayer, Royal W.  
Crawford, W. H.  
Blood, Nathan B.  
Hollis, Galen  
Whalen, Thomas  
Hollis, George W., Jr.  
Townsend, Newton

Boynton, Richard F.  
Knight, Nelson E.  
Smith, William A.  
Croak, William A.  
Stanly, Francis A.  
Adams, John  
Herman, Thomas C.  
Boyle, Joseph  
Oliver, S. Frank  
Simmons, Oliver  
Clark, John Y.  
McMahon, Edward  
Collier, W. H.  
Shea, Henry H.  
Fowkes, George  
Thayer, Henry C.  
Cahill, John  
Hollis, Lemuel  
Cartwright, J. T.  
Thayer, H. W.  
Thayer, Thomas H. B.  
Lovering, Isaac J.  
Adams, Richard  
Ward, Christopher  
Howard, Henry B.  
Pratt, Charles E.  
Payne, Ezra R.  
Blencowe, William W.  
Foley, John  
Moore, John, Jr.  
Howard, George  
Dyer, F. W.  
Hayden, Lorenzo  
Bowman, Oliver H.  
Eddy, George  
Eddy, Charles  
Dench, George B.  
Hawes, George W.  
Greelish, Owen L.  
Holbrook, Hiram  
Curran, Timothy  
Uniak, Robert  
Uniack, Richard  
Rooney, Peter  
Wilde, Charles H.  
Wilde, Charles H.  
Meaney, James H.  
Lyons, John W.  
Curry, Hugh  
McAuliffe, Richard

Ayers, George  
Dunphy, Michael P.  
Desmond, John  
Curran, John  
Taylor, Franklin  
Jones, Adam W.  
Faunce, Leonard A.  
McGrath, Thomas  
O'Keefe, John  
Reistlon, John  
Nash, John  
Gilman, Austin  
Sweeney, Patrick  
Dinter, Ernest  
Carey, Patrick  
Hanley, Patrick  
Farrington, Abel  
Cox, Chandler  
Mahoney, John  
Thayer, Joseph W.  
Faunce, Hiram S.  
Johnson, George M.  
Hunt, M. Norton  
Keevan, Edward  
Wilbur, Lorenzo E.  
Roscoe, Luther  
Howard, Martin O. B.  
Allen, William S.  
Burbank, Angelo A.  
Holbrook, Seth  
Abenzeller, Joseph  
Howard, Edward E.  
Roberts, William R.  
Harris, Lewis L.  
Fitzgerald, James  
Pope, Charles H.  
Jones, Rufus I.  
Morrissey, William  
Osgood, James H.  
Cole, Charles H.  
Jones, George W.  
Roberts, Charles F.  
Copen, Lemuel  
Howard, Henry M.  
Harris, Rufus  
Fellerwin, Ferdinand  
Barry, James  
Decosta, Cyrus  
Adams, John  
Tirrel, N. H.

Wilde, Hiram  
Hopkins, Jonathan  
Hollis, Laroz S.  
Woodman, Stillman B.  
Miller, Benjamin L.  
Sloan, Peter S.  
Barry, Charles A.  
Crosby, John  
Dean, Ward C.  
Wright, George H.  
Hodge, S. R.  
Spear, W. B.  
Soule, Cady  
Belcher, Francis A.  
Belcher, Charles H.  
Hand, Peter B.  
Pope, David  
May, John  
Stetson, Francis E.  
Buck, N. Everett  
Tucker, George L.  
Sargent, F. D.  
McMahon, Peter  
Smith, William W.  
Thayer, Charles H., 2nd  
Mann, Frank H.  
Archer, Horace S.  
Wendall, Reuben B.  
Crandall, Lovell D.  
Jones, James M.  
Wilkinson, John  
Howard, James F.  
Denehey, Daniel D.  
Tilerton, George H.  
Sylvester, John A.  
Hunt, Moses Horton  
Forrest, Augustus  
Stetson, Abel  
Macomber, Albert M.  
Peach, John  
Thayer, Philander W.  
McLennan, Robert W.  
Schraut, Simon  
Farnsworth, Edward A.  
Abbenzellor, Anthony  
McVey, John  
Kingsbury, James A.  
Weinhold, Arrvold  
Chandler, Frederick  
Tynan, John J.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

Shumway, Gilbert H.  
Hilton, Charles A.  
Leonard, Samuel M.  
Berry, Robert  
Bigelow, John  
Beal, Samuel

Thornton, John J.  
Cox, Henry M.  
Gordon, Andrew B.  
Woodford, Charles A.  
Delano, Alonzo  
Kiely, Patrick M.

Sloan, Isaac H.  
Hadley, Elbridge J.  
Moore, Peter E.  
Nightingale, Alva M.  
Coakley, William H.  
Thayer, Charles R.

Bigelow, Frederick H.  
Kent, George E.  
Godwin, George H.  
McMorrow, Charles J.  
Reynolds, George F.  
Allen, John E.

## SPANISH WAR VETERANS

Kelley, John J. .... Navy  
Lyons, Daniel P. .... Army  
Mahoney, Dennis F. .... Army  
Mahoney, Thomas F. .... Army

Qula, Themistocles .... Army  
Tynan, James F. .... Army  
Cowing, Charles Frederick .... Navy  
Boyle, James Francis .... M. C.

O'Brien, Simon William .... M. C.  
Roberts, James Henry .... M. C.  
Sheehan, John Joseph .... M. C.  
Sullivan, Daniel Florence .... M. C.

## WORLD WAR I VETERANS

Abrams, David  
Abrams Samuel  
Alden, Harold  
Anderson, Roy  
Apromollo, Dominick A.

Bancroft, Frederick W., Jr.  
Beale, Frank E.  
Billingham, Walter  
Boyd, Dwight W.  
Boyd, Ralph N.  
Brennan, Arthur J.  
Brennan, William E.  
Brewster, George  
Briscoe, Roger G.  
Brown, Francis E.  
Brown, John C.  
Bump, Ray C.

Carney, Walter L.  
Carroll, J. Leo  
Carroll, William F.  
Carroll, William H.  
Carroll, William J.  
Cartwright, Ralph W.  
Cass, Leverett E.  
Christie, Roy P.  
Claff, C. Lloyd  
Clark, Henry T.  
Clark, Joseph B.  
Cochrane, Cecil C.  
Cohen, David  
Collins, John J.  
Collins, Peter J.  
Condon, Joseph M.  
Condon, Richard P.  
Condon, Thomas J.  
Conlon, William

Coulter, Ralph M.  
\*Crawford, John D.  
Crothers, Leon H., Jr.  
Croud, Earl V.  
Cunningham, Charles J.  
Cunningham, John  
Cunningham, William T.

Dargan, Terence J.  
DeCoursey, John J.  
Delano, Emery E.  
Delofarno, Henry L.  
Dempsey, William F.  
Dench, Joseph J.  
Dench, Leo E.  
Desmond, Francis  
\*Desmond, Thomas W.  
\*Devine, Charles G.  
Diauto, Dominick F.  
Dolan, Henry A.  
Donovan, Jeremiah J.  
Doonan, Francis E.  
Dowd, James B.  
Dowd, Thomas H.  
Doyle, Charles  
Doyle, James J.  
Doyle, John J.  
Duffy, James L.  
Dunbar, Henry C.  
Dunbar, John B.  
Dunbar, Robert W.

Evans, Perley E.

Fahey, Edward F.  
Farquhar, Fred B.  
Farrell, Walter E.  
Fischer, Frank C.

Flaherty, Edmund R.  
Foley, Edward J.  
Forrest, Augustus K.  
Forrest, Edward A.  
Foster, Frank E.  
Foster, Robert D.  
Foster, William D.  
French, Earl M.  
French, Elmer L.  
French, J. Milton

Gaffey, Edward J.  
Gallagher, John R.  
Garvey, Lawrence F.  
Genereux, Everett D.  
Gibson, Robert  
Gill, Patrick F.  
Gillis, Richard A.  
Gokey, Ernest  
Good, John K.  
Gove, Carl S.  
Glidden, Chester G.  
Grows, Henry  
Grows, Walter H.  
Gove, Leland H.

Hand, F. Leo  
Hand, Charles E.  
Hanney, William J.  
Hagney, Arthur J.  
Hansalpaker, Arthur E.  
Hansalpaker, H. C.  
Harding, Wallace C.  
Hanson, Alf  
Hanson, William  
Harkins, Frank J.  
Heller, Otto C.  
Henderson, Norman R.

Hess, Frank  
Higgins, George V.  
Hogan, Victor M.  
Holbrook, Grace  
Holden, Thomas F.  
Hurley, William L.

Isaac, Harry C., Jr.

Jacques, Paul A.  
Johnson, Augustus

Kane, Harold J.  
Kane, Thomas F.  
Keith, Edward H.  
Keith, Francis G.  
Kelliher, Leo  
Kelliher, Robert B.  
Kelliher, Walter F.  
Kelly, John A.  
Kelly, John F.  
Kelly, Patrick J.  
Kelly, Timothy J.  
Kemp, Hobart H.  
Kenney, Thomas E.  
Kennedy, Thomas A.  
Kiley, Charles R.  
Kiley, George H.  
Kiley, James H.  
Kiley, John  
Kiley, John F.  
Kiley, Joseph P.

Laughlin, Thomas  
Leavitt, Marshall W.  
LeCocq, Alfred J.  
Linnehan, Patrick J.  
Lonergan, William T.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

Long, Adelbert W.	McDonald, Joseph	O'Mahoney, Joseph W.	Sanford, Harry L.
Long, Edward R.	McDonald, William F.	O'Neil, David A.	Scannell, M. Bernard
Long, Mary J.	McDonnell, Patrick T.	O'Neil, Michael J.	Scott, William H.
Luddington, Theodore S.	*McEnelly, Thomas D.	Osborne, Chester W.	Shepard, Arthur W.
Lundberg, Carl G.	McLeer, William C.		Sherwood, Walter A.
Lyons, Arthur H.	McMahon, Hugh A.	Payne, Chester W.	Southwick, William E.
Lyons, Frank E.	McMahon, Joseph H.	Pepper, Alfred	Spence, Charles A.
Lyons, Harvey G.	*McNeill, Daniel J.	Pepper, Alfred L.	Spence, George A.
Lyons, Thomas E.	McNeill, Malcolm	Peterson, Ebba	Stampe, Walter
	Meaney, Henry J.	Pinkerton, Henry W.	Sullivan, Edward J.
	Meaney, William H.	Pinkerton, Richard C.	Sullivan, Leo F.
	Mellon, Harold E.	Piper, Carlton F.	
	Mellon, James	Plunkett, Leonard	
	Messier, Harry	Pomeroy, John	Teece, Carlton P.
	Montgomery, Hugh	Porter, Charles D.	Teece, William W.
	Montgomery, Roy	Powderly, Albert G.	Thomas, Cyril C.
	Moody, Sumner G.	Powderly, Hubert	Tierney, William W.
	Moran, Thomas	Proctor, Edward E.	Towns, Russell
	Morgan, Edward J.	Purcell, John T.	Truelson, Charles
	Mulligan, James E.	Purcell, Thomas	Wallace, Chester C.
	Mulligan, Joseph H.		Walsh, John H.
	Mulligan, Thomas F.	Raggett, David T. R.	Webber, Henry E.
	Mullins, Henry E.	Rideout, Walter	White, Lawrence
	Mullins, Thomas J.	Roddan, Edward L.	White, Roderick
	Murphy, Alloysius O.	Roddan, Florence S.	Whitcomb, Perley F.
	Murphy, Joseph M.	Roel, Charles A.	Whitcomb, John J.
	Murray, Lemuel G.	Rooney, John H.	Willard, J. Russell
	Myrick, Alfred W.	Rooney, William J.	Willard, Roger B.
		Rudderham, John H.	Wiseman, Francis J.
	O'Connell, Cornelius L.	Rudderham, Joseph E.	Wiseman, Fred
	O'Connell, John J.	Rudderham, William F.	Wood, Mahlon J.
	O'Connell, William A.	Ruhl, Henry L.	Woodman, Francis J.
	O'Keefe, Thomas	Ryan, John	

## WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Abrams, George	Arneson, William	Beagan, John J.	Blakely, David S.
Abrams, Jennie	Arsenault, Francis L.	Beckford, James M.	Bolin, Herbert T.
Adams, Wilbert E.	Arsenault, Joseph F.	Bell, William S., Jr.	Boothby, Randolph O.
*Almond, Robert	Arsenault, Maxwell J.	Benjamino, John M.	Borden, Newton W.
Almond, William J.	Asai, Sim L.	Benjamino, Mitchell, J.	Borden, Roy F., Jr.
Anderson, Albert H.	Ayers, Norman F.	Bennett, Leroy C.	Boutin, Lawrence F.
Anderson, Alden M.		Bennett, Robert F.	Bowley, Hudson L.
Anderson, Arthur G.	Bailey, Philip H.	Bens, David L.	Boyle, John J.
Anderson, Charles P.	Bailey, Wilbert G.	Bens, Ralph J., Jr.	Boyle, Philip L.
Anderson, Earle H.	Baker, Arthur M.	Bens, Richard A.	Bradley, Robert J.
Anderson, Harold B.	Baker, Frank H.	Benway, Frank S.	Brennan, John F.
Anderson, Henry A.	Baker, George C., Jr.	Berg, Harold R.	Brennan, John K.
Anderson, Henry H.	Barkhouse, Carl E.	Berg, Ralph R.	Brennan, Thomas W., Jr.
Anderson, Thomas	Barry, Michael	Bergdoll, Frank A.	Brewster, Arthur E.
Apromollo, Anthony J.	Bassett, Milton R., Jr.	Berry, Edward J.	Brewster, Charles
Apromollo, Charles D.	Bates, Arthur R.	Berry, Thomas R., Jr.	Brewster, George A.
Apromollo, Martin P.	Bates, John C.	Beswick, Earl H.	Brewster, Harold W.
Arey, Caroline A.	Bates, Joseph A.	Beswick, Francis C.	Brewster, John A.
Arey, Howard E., Jr.	Bates, J. Charles	Beswick, Joseph E.	Brewster, Joseph F.
Arey, Howard E., Sr.	Bates, Thomas B., Jr.	Bickford, Horace	Brewster, Wilbur J.
Arey, William	Reach, William H.	Blacquier, Arthur F.	Briand, Albert E.



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

- |                           |                         |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Briscoe, Roger G.         | Clark, Frederick W.     | Daly, Daniel E.           | Erickson, Bertel E. O.     |
| Brooks, Philip L.         | Clark, Henry, Jr.       | Daley, Robert T.          | Ertel, Kenneth E.          |
| Brooks, William L.        | Clark, James F.         | Daley, Thomas E.          | Erwin, George F.           |
| Brown, Albert E.          | Clark, Ralph D.         | Daley, Thomas E., Jr.     | Erwin, Walter R.           |
| Brown, Hansford           | Clausen, Henry          | Damiano, Anthony          | Esposito, Anna M.          |
| Brown, Walter L.          | Clay, Alexander E.      | Damiano, Peter J.         | *Essiembre, Adrian G.      |
| Burchell, Edwin L.        | Clay, Thomas R.         | Davids, Edward M.         | Essiembre, Gerard H.       |
| Burchell, William W.      | Coates, Kenneth S.      | Davis, James B.           |                            |
| Burg, Walter H.           | Cochrane, Bernard F.    | *Davis, Maurice R.        | Fahey, Edward F.           |
| Burns, Gerald Philip      | Cohen, John S.          | Davis, William F.         | Farr, William J.           |
| Burns, Kenneth R.         | Cohen, Mildred G.       | Davison, Lawrence         | Farrel, Dennis J.          |
| Burns, Norman R.          | Cohen, Sylvia           | Deane, Louis V.           | Faunce, Frank E., Jr.      |
| Butler, John              | Cole, Joseph E.         | DeAngelis, Anthony        | Faunce, Julius A.          |
| Buttacavoli, Joseph       | Cole, Walter A.         | DeAngelis, Emmett J.      | Feener, Allan E.           |
| Buzzell, Donald A.        | Coleman, Paul J.        | DeAngelis, Ernest J., Jr. | Feener, Donald W.          |
| Bynarowicz, Genevieve C.  | Collins, Leroy A.       | DeAngelis, Guy            | Feener, Frank R.           |
| Bynarowicz, Mitchell T.   | Combie, Edward C.       | Decota, Louis F., Jr.     | Feener, Milledge W.        |
| Byron, Charles E.         | Condlin, John W.        | Delorey, Elmer J., Jr.    | Feener, Warren H.          |
| Byron, Robert L.          | Conley, John H.         | DePaola, Albino C.        | Fenton, Loring I.          |
|                           | Conlon, Edward L.       | DePaola, Roger A.         | Fernald, Melville W.       |
| Cahill, William           | Conlon, James R.        | DePaola, Patsy            | Ferraro, Anthony L.        |
| Calawa, Lorraine          | Connaughton, Joseph D.  | DePaola, Peter            | Ferraro, Camillo           |
| Calhoun, Thomas F., Jr.   | Connell, John H.        | Derby, Frank F.           | Ferraro, John P.           |
| Call, Edward R.           | Connell, Philbrook J.   | Derocher, Edward F.       | Ferris, Donald Lewis       |
| Calvi, Frank              | Connolly, Lawrence M.   | DeSisto, Alvin P.         | Field, Francis E.          |
| Campbell, James           | Connelly, Joseph P.     | DiPasqua, Alfonso S.      | Fillebrown, Arthur R.      |
| Campbell, William         | Connors, James A.       | Dixon, Harold E.          | Fillebrown, Robert M.      |
| Canavan, Edward J.        | Connors, John J.        | Dockendorff, Ernest       | Fitzgerald, Rev. Edward R. |
| *Canavan, Frederick J.    | Connors, Leo H., Jr.    | Dockendorff, Robert L.    | Fitzgerald, James E.       |
| Cannizzaro, John          | Connors, Raymond A.     | Doherty, Francis G.       | Flanagan, Eugene J.        |
| Cannazzaro, Joseph        | Connors, Vincent        | Doherty, John F.          | *Flanagan, John J.         |
| Carleton, Harry G.        | Conrad, Arthur E.       | Dolan, Vincent F.         | Flanagan, William J.       |
| Carlino, Felix A.         | Conrad, Roy A.          | Donnelly, George J., Jr.  | Flaherty, Edward P.        |
| Carmichael, Andrew G.     | Corcoran, George        | Donnelly, William P.      | Fletcher, Elmer F.         |
| Carmichael, Andrew H.     | Corcoran, John J.       | Donovan, Richard A.       | Fletcher, Robert J.        |
| Carmichael, Robert B.     | Corkin, Herbert I.      | Dowd, Mary F.             | Flood, William H.          |
| Carmichael, Walter A.     | Cormey, George A.       | Downes, Frank M.          | Flynn, Harold J.           |
| Carmichael, William J.    | Corp, Henry N., Jr.     | Downs, Walter B.          | Flynn, Joseph P.           |
| Carmody, Gladys E.        | Corp, William L.        | Downing, John C.          | Fogo, Arthur F.            |
| Carpenter, Richard        | Corrigan, Arthur H.     | Doyle, Francis J.         | *Fogo, Thomas R.           |
| Cartwright, John T.       | Coulson, Frederick B.   | Doyle, John J., Jr.       | Foley, Alfred J.           |
| Cartwright, Ralph W., Jr. | Cox, Francis            | Doyle, Paul               | Foley, Charles A.          |
| Cartwright, Virginia      | Cox, Gladys L.          | Doyle, Teresa A.          | Foley, Charles D.          |
| Cavanaugh, James F.       | Cox, Joseph W.          | Drummond, Pauline F.      | Foley, John J., Jr.        |
| Cavanaugh, John T.        | Crawford, John D., 2nd  | Drysdale, Edward J.       | Foley, Stanley J.          |
| Chamberlain, Charles T.   | Crawford, Seth T., Jr.  | Dubois, Herbert           | Foote, Marlon W.           |
| Champa, John L.           | Crimmins, George E.     | Duckworth, Arthur P.      | Ford, Robert               |
| Champney, Harold J.       | Crockett, Clifton A.    | Duffy, Francis P.         | Forrest, Frank A.          |
| Chase, George H.          | Crockett, Earl          | Dunphy, Elizabeth G.      | Forte, Anthony P.          |
| Chatfield, Lawrence W.    | Crovo, Charles L.       | Dunphy, James H., Jr.     | Foss, John O.              |
| Cheverie, William J.      | Crovo, Louis C.         | Dunphy, Kathryn A.        | Foti, Joseph               |
| Christian, Henry J.       | Cullen, George F.       | Dupras, John J., III      | Foti, Vincent J.           |
| Christiansen, Stanley P.  | Cullen, John D.         | Dupras, Raymond C.        | Freeman, Clark W.          |
| Claff, Leslie A.          | Cullen, William J.      | Durling, Charles W.       | Frederickson, Frank E.     |
| Claff, Patricia A.        | Curran, Edward J.       | Durling, Ralph E.         | Frederickson, Walter A.    |
| Clark, Allen T.           | Curran, Robert          | Duven, Robert             | French, Charles L.         |
| Clark, Arthur T.          | Curran, William R., Jr. | Dyer, William B.          | French, John A.            |
| Clark, Charles V.         | Currie, William A.      |                           | French, Roger P.           |
| Clark, Edward T.          | Currie, William G.      |                           | Frid, Frank I.             |
|                           |                         | *Edunas, David A.         |                            |



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

- |                        |                          |                         |                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Frost, Lawton          | Harrington, Stanley F.   | Hurley, William P.      | Kiley, Richard J.          |
| Fuller, Charles W.     | *Harris, Arthur W.       | Hurry, William E.       | King, George F.            |
| Gabaree, James W.      | Harris, Benjamin F.      | Hylen, Carl G.          | Killoran, William          |
| Gabaree, Warren F.     | Harris, Joseph B., Jr.   | Hylen, Edward V.        | King, Thomas H.            |
| Gabriel, Vincenzo      | Harris, Robert G.        |                         | Kivekas, John S.           |
| Gaffney, Francis R.    | Hart, Francis T.         | Imrie, Robert K.        | Klauer, Paul B.            |
| Gaffney, John A.       | Hart, Frank J.           | Iorio, Robert A.        | *Knights, Charles H.       |
| Gale, George L.        | Hart, Joseph J.          | Irving, Moses           | Knights, Harry B., Jr.     |
| Garrison, Herbert W.   | Hart, Leo J.             | Isaac, Richard D.       | Knights, James C.          |
| Garrity, Donald        | Hart, Richard            |                         | Knights, Walter F.         |
| Garron, Layton St. C.  | Haskell, Charles J., Jr. | Jacobson, Carl E.       | Knox, Grace G.             |
| Gavin, Walter F.       | Hawkins, Arlene A.       | Jaeger, Ralph H.        | Kopp, John C.              |
| Gaynor, Francis L.     | Hawkins, Richard L.      | Jamros, Francis J.      | Kourafas, George           |
| Gaynor, James F., Jr.  | Hawkins, William, Jr.    | Jeffrey, Harlan C.      | Krupka, Bronislaw M.       |
| Gaynor, Maryrose       | Hayes, Robert O.         | Jerard, Joseph          |                            |
| Gaynor, Robert G.      | Hayes, Thelma            | Johansen, Arnold W.     | Labelle, Edmund A.         |
| Genereaux, Robert H.   | Haynes, David M.         | Johns, Charles W., Jr.  | Labreque, Boivin E.        |
| Getchell, Robert E.    | Hegarty, Cecil P.        | Johns, Harold W.        | Labreque, Norman A.        |
| Gibson, Robert J.      | Hendrickson, Arthur J.   | Johnson, Harry E.       | Labreque, Ray R.           |
| Gilbert, Paul K.       | Heney, Harold F.         | Johnston, Albert        | Lally, James               |
| Gilbert, Raymond       | Heney, George H., Jr.    | *Johnston, James R.     | Lally, Leo                 |
| Gillard, George E.     | Heney, John J.           | Johnston, Joseph        | LaFleur, Leo R.            |
| Gillis, Donald J.      | Hennigar, Bernard L.     | Jope, Frank L.          | Langenbach, Frederick J.   |
| Gillis, John A.        | Herrick, Barbara M.      | Jope, Robert C.         | Larkin, Elizabeth M.       |
| Gillis, Richard A.     | Heslin, John M.          | Jope, William R.        | Larsen, Henry C.           |
| Ginnetty, James F.     | Hess, Charles            | Joyce, John J.          | Larson, Andrew O.          |
| Ginnetty, Paul E.      | Hess, Robert W.          | Joyce, Marie            | Lawless, John B.           |
| Good, John L.          | Hewey, William H.        | Judge, William A.       | Lawrence, Charles W.       |
| Good, Thomas M.        | Hewins, Loring D.        |                         | Leahy, John P.             |
| Good, William J., Jr.  | Hickey, John L.          | Kaidel, Horst W.        | Lecleric, Adrian R.        |
| Gove, David W.         | Higgins, Harold E.       | Kakshtis, Adolph A.     | Lee, Howard                |
| Gove, Robert H.        | Hill, Arthur S.          | Kakshtis, George J.     | Leedham, Sidney L.         |
| Gowan, William A.      | Hill, John R.            | Kasper, Walter          | LeForestier, Michael       |
| Grant, Mearl R.        | Hinckley, William G.     | Keith, Francis E.       | LeForestier, Rita F.       |
| Grant, Robert          | Hobson, George G., Jr.   | Keith, Joseph R.        | Leighton, William J.       |
| Greco, Rose B.         | Hoeg, Arthur E., Jr.     | Keith, Phil p G.        | LeLacheur, Kenneth J., Jr. |
| Griffin, John W.       | Hoeg, Robert W.          | Keith, Richard F.       | Lemieux, Frank W.          |
| Gunther, Felix         | Hoffman, Robert E.       | Keith, Walter E., Jr.   | Levangie, John M.          |
| Gunther, Joseph A.     | Hoffman, William A.      | Kelleher, Joseph E.     | Levesque, George E., Jr.   |
|                        | Holbrook, Alfred M.      | Kelley, James F.        | Lewis, Walter Henry        |
|                        | Holbrook, George H.      | Kelley, Robert          | *Lewis, Victor A.          |
| Haley, Charles F.      | Holland, Eugene A.       | Kelling, John F.        | Lind, Gordon               |
| Hall, Elbert W.        | Holland, William E.      | Kelsey, Algie J.        | Lloyd, Earle L.            |
| Hall, George A.        | Hollis, Charles H.       | Kendall, Arthur P., Jr. | Logue, Robert E.           |
| Hall, Lee V., Jr.      | Hollis, Ernest H.        | Kendall, Robert J.      | Loneragan, Edwin J.        |
| Halloran, Walter A.    | Hollis, Fred L.          | Kennedy, James F.       | Loring, Paul S.            |
| Hamel, James R.        | Holloway, James W.       | Kenney, James F.        | Luddington, Robert T.      |
| Hand, Francis L., Jr.  | Holloway, John E.        | Kenney, Milton E.       | Lutton, Robert F.          |
| Handrahan, John W.     | Hopkins, George E.       | Kent, Philip S.         | Lutz, Richard C.           |
| Hanscom, Elmer F.      | Hopkins, Norman F.       | Kerrisey, Leo           | Lutz, Warren R., Sr.       |
| Hanscom, George P.     | Horne, James N.          | Kersey, Frederick M.    | Lutz, Warren R., Jr.       |
| Hanscome, John V.      | Hoxie, Albert M.         | Kight, Edward E.        | Lyman, Francis W.          |
| Hapworth, Richard L.   | Hubble, Fred F., Jr.     | Kight, Joseph E.        | Lynch, John                |
| Hardy, Edward E.       | Hudson, William R.       | Kight, Julian E.        | Lyons, Edwin R.            |
| Hardy, William         | Hughes, Frank L.         | Kight, William E.       | Lyons, Francis A.          |
| Harkins, Frank J., Jr. | Hurley, George E.        | Kilcoyne, Mildred T.    | Lyons, Paul H.             |
| Harkins, Joseph V.     | Hurley, John J.          | Kiley, George H., Jr.   | Lyons, Raymond E.          |
| Harrington, Francis E. | Hurley, John W.          | Kiley, John P.          | Lyons, Robert E.           |
| Harrington, George M.  | Hurley, Joseph P.        | Kiley, Mary A.          | Lyons, Robert F.           |



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

- Lynch, John F.  
Maccini, Peter J.  
MacGerrigle, Raymond P.  
MacGillvray, George O.  
MacIsaac, Charles I.  
MacLeod, Jean  
MacLeod, John A.  
MacLeod, Ralph E.  
MacPhee, Thomas B.  
MacWilliam, Alexander  
MacWilliam, Priscilla  
Madan, Alonzo L.  
Magnuson, Daniel  
Magnuson, Robert E.  
Maguire, Andrew J.  
Maguire, William F.  
Mahady, Grace  
Mahoney, Gerald G.  
Maguire, Arthur G.  
Mahoney, James F.  
Mahoney, James H.  
Mahoney, John J.  
Mahoney, John W.  
Mahoney, Mary A.  
Mahoney, Paul  
Mahoney, William P.  
Main, Friend E.  
Malloy, John G.  
Malloy, Vincent E.  
Malm, Ernest  
Mann, Albert V.  
Mann, David V.  
Mann, Earl E.  
Mann, Herbert E., Jr.  
Mann, Lester H.  
Mann, Wililam G.  
Manthorne, Arthur D., Jr.  
Marconi, Edward J.  
\*Marconi, Geoffrey L.  
Markham, Philip B.  
Markham, Robert E.  
Markle, James E.  
  
Marshall, Frederick W., Jr.  
Martin, Ernest C., Jr.  
Martin, Walter P.  
Martucci, Angelo  
Martucci, Raymond  
Mather, Charles A.  
Mather, Clark G.  
Mather, Lee W.  
Matheson, Donald H.  
Mazules, Charles C.  
\*Mazzeo, Michael D.  
Mazzeo, James V.  
McAuliffe, Fred F.  
\*McAuliffe, Richard H.  
McCarthy, Francis W.  
  
McCaul, Jack L.  
McDermott, Henry X.  
McDermott, James A.  
McDermott, John E.  
McDermott, Joseph R.  
McDermott, Leo J.  
McDevitt, Joseph F.  
\*McDevitt, Thomas J.  
McDevitt, William R.  
McDonald, Earle R.  
McDonald, Joseph F.  
McDonald, Walter J., Jr.  
McDonnell, Bernard P.  
McDonnell, Thomas H.  
McDowell, Harry L.  
McEntee, Robert J., Jr.  
McFarlane, Robert H.  
McGaughey, John R.  
McGerrigle, John  
McGlenaghan, James F.  
McGown, Robert G.  
McGrath, Arthur J.  
McGrath, William J.  
McGrory, Anna L.  
McGrory, Mary A.  
McKenna, George R.  
McKenna, Walter F.  
McLaughlin, Edward F.  
McLaughlin, James J.  
McLaughlin, William F.  
McLeer, William R., Jr.  
McMahon, Elmore F.  
McMakin, John F., Jr.  
McMakin, Robert J.  
McSolla, Herbert E.  
McSolla, Robert P.  
McNulty, James F.  
McSweeney, John J.  
Meaney, Edward J.  
Meaney, Joseph W.  
Messere, Alfred H.  
Miner, Ernest H.  
Miner, George S.  
Miner, Hugh G.  
Mitchell, Albert G.  
Mitchell, Frank H.  
Mofford, Reginald D., Jr.  
Mohr, Frederick E.  
Mohr, Jack E.  
Mohr, Rudolph A.  
Molloy, James P., Jr.  
\*Moore, Charles A.  
Moore, Edward L.  
Moore, George W.  
Moore, Kenneth E.  
Moore, Thomas N.  
Morrill, Richard G.  
Morris, Stafford N.  
Morrissey, Edward F.  
  
Morrissey, Frederick K.  
Morton, Edward H. C.  
Morton, Robert J.  
Morton, Victor  
Mulder, Giles C.  
Mulhall, John  
Mullen, Charles W.  
Murphy, Arthur J.  
Murphy, Bernard F.  
Murphy, Daniel J.  
Murphy, Frances E.  
Murphy, Frederick M., Jr.  
Murphy, George E.  
Murphy, John J.  
Murphy, Lawrence J.  
Murphy, Michael  
Murray, William B.  
Myers, Ralph  
  
Nason, Howard W.  
Nason, Robert E.  
Neilson, John W.  
\*Nelson, James  
Nelson, Stanley A.  
Nichols, Henry L.  
Nicholls, Roberta J.  
Norman, John J.  
Norman, Robert W.  
Norris, James  
Nugent, Frank F.  
Nugent, James B.  
  
O'Brien, James F.  
O'Connell, Cornelius J.  
O'Connell, Gertrude G.  
O'Connell, Joseph P.  
O'Connell, William A., Jr.  
Olsen, Ralph E.  
Olsen, William C.  
O'Neil, Francis A.  
O'Neil, Joseph C.  
O'Neil, Mathew J., Jr.  
O'Neil, Robert J.  
Opferkuch, Charles F.  
O'Reilly, Thomas E.  
O'Riley, John R.  
Osborne, Walter J.  
Osborne, Ernest J., Jr.  
O'Sullivan, David G.  
  
Pace, Vincent R., Jr.  
Palmer, Rodman L.  
Papp, Andrew  
Papp, George  
Papp, James F.  
Papp, Joseph C.  
Parenteau, Edgar  
Parker, Joseph H.  
Parker, Walter W.  
  
Parker, Wesley K., Jr.  
Pasquantonio, Angelo  
Passiagio, Tony  
Paulsen, Paul C., Jr.  
Pearce, Albert S.  
Pearce, George A.  
Pelissier, Cyril B.  
Pelissier, Edward R.  
\*Pelissier, Warren E.  
Pemberton, James L., Jr.  
Pendleton, William  
Perkins, John T.  
Peters, Albert J.  
Peters, Joseph F.  
\*Petipas, Richard J.  
Pettengill, Russell H.  
Pfister, Kenneth A.  
Philbrook, Frank R.  
Pignatelli, Eugene J.  
Pignatelli, Victor  
Poor, Walter P.  
Porter, John L.  
Potter, Harold R.  
Powers, Alfred M.  
Powers, Frank R.  
Powers, Richard T.  
Powers, Rupert O.  
Powers, Stanley W., Jr.  
Proctor, Francis J.  
Purcell, John C.  
Purdy, Albert J.  
Puzone, James  
  
Queen, Donald R.  
Queen, Earle M.  
Quimby, Charles C.  
Quimby, John H.  
  
Ramaska, Joseph R.  
Ramoska, George  
Ramsdale, Sylvester L.  
Raynor, Boyd  
Reid, Ernest F.  
Reid, Lloyd W.  
Reilly, James P., Jr.  
Reilly, Thomas F.  
Reilly, William M.  
Rein, Henry J., Jr.  
Reynolds, Cecil M.  
Rhind, Raymond  
Ricci, Joseph A.  
Rice, Marjorie A.  
Riley, Ernest E.  
Rinaldi, Calvin C.  
Rinaldi, Dominic  
Rinaldi, Joseph M.  
Rinaldi, Louis  
Rinaldi, Valentine  
Robbins, Harold



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF RANDOLPH

Robbins, William H., Jr.	Simmons, Warren R.	Sullivan, Stephen J., Jr.	Walsh, Harold E.
Roberts, Arthur J.	Skalecki, John W.	Sullivan, Thomas E.	Walsh, Robert B.
Roberts, George J.	Skalecki, Joseph U.	Suvalsky, Marilyn B.	Warner, Robert A.
Roberts, Walter E.	Skonberg, Albert W.	Suvalsky, Paul	Watson, Clayton A.
Robertson, James A.	Skonberg, Theodore A.	Swain, Charles W.	Waugh, William F.
Robertson, Ruth G.	Skonberg, Victor E.	Swain, Edward F.	Webber, Charles A.
Robinson, Carroll L.	Slater, Robert W.	Swain, Seth W.	Webber, John E.
Robitaille, Edward	Sliney, Gerald D.	Sweatt, Blaine	Webber, Richard W.
Roddan, Edward L.	Sliney, John P.		Webber, Walter P.
Ross, Joseph F.	Sloane, William O.	Tanner, Charles O.	Wells, Barbara
Rota, Henry J.	Smith, Charles E.	Teece, Robert D.	Wells, Edward L.
Roth, Marshall H. G.	*Smith, George F., Jr.	Teed, Harvey W.	Wells, Richard L.
Rounds, Emerson L.	Smith, John J.	Teed, John R.	Wescott, Hubert F.
Rowe, Dorothy M.	Smith, Norman E., Sr.	*Thayer, Melvin E.	Westover, Orville F.
Rowe, Elizabeth J.	Smith, Norman E., Jr.	Thayer, Robert D.	Whealan, James P., Jr.
Rowe Frank	Smith, Richard F., Jr.	Thibeault, John H.	Whealan, Mary A.
Ryan, Edward B.	Smith, Robert A.	Thomas, Daniel J., Jr.	Whealan, Thomas J.
Ryan, James P.	Smith, Winifred V.	Thomas, Octave	Whitaker, Albert P.
Ryder, Claude E.	Smythe, Ashley A.	Thomas, Lawrence A.	White, Arthur J., Jr.
Rydings, John J.	Soderburg, Arthur D.	Thompson, Percy A.	White, Elmer T.
Rydings, Joseph A.	Soule, Charles E., Jr.	Thompson, Ralph J.	White, Harold L.
	Soule, Edwin C., Jr.	Thompson, Robert L.	White, John H.
Salamone, Frank J.	Spearin, Franklin A., Jr.	Thorne, Charles H.	White, Orrin B.
Saltmarsh, Charles H.	Spearin, George F.	Thorne, Ralph Y.	White, Phillip E.
*Sanborn, Henry D.	Spearin, Malcolm R.	Tibbetts, Roger E.	White, Robert F.
Sargent, Henry	Spearin, St. Clair M.	Tierney, Arthur D.	White, William J.
Sarni, Albert P.	Splan, Francis R.	Tierney, Joseph M.	Whynot, Harold W.
Sarni, Alexandro	Sprague, Bernard, Jr.	Tippett, Eugene W., Jr.	Whynot, Lester E.
Sarni, Rocco P.	Sprague, Norma J.	Toomey, Gerald H.	Whynot, Wallace B.
Sass, Joseph P.	Sproul, Edward	Towns, Arthur R.	Wilbur, Ellis W.
Sass, Roger V.	Sproul, George W.	Towns, George A.	Wilbur, Howard D.
Saunders, Charles H., Jr.	Sproul, Robert	Towns, William E.	Wilbur, William B.
Sawyer, George E.	Stackenburg, Abraham L.	Tremblay, Norman	Wilde, Ralph C.
Scanlon, Cornelius J.	Stackenburg, Christine J.	Trostel, Ira	Willard, John K.
*Scanlon, Walter E., Jr.	Stackenburg, Leo	Trow, Sherman	Williams, Robert W.
Scannell, John L.	Stevenson, Edward	Trudeau, Charles H.	Willis, Albert L.
Scannell, Thomas, Jr.	*Stearns, Richard T.	Truelson, Charles L.	Woods, Earle G.
Schlosser, Bertram	Stewart, Francis A.	Tucker, Harold M.	Woodford, Arthur W.
Schmook, Norman	Stewart, James C.	Tucker, Sidney	Wren, Edward J.
Schneider, Albert	Stewart, James M.	Turner, Tage T.	Wright, Calvin T.
Schneider, Richard P.	Stewart, John M.		Wright, Robert W.
Seaverns, Dana L.	Stewart, Ralph G.	Ulwick, Charles R.	
Semensi, Alfred L.	Stewart, Richard J.	Ulwick, James C.	Yaitanes, James J.
Semensi, Joseph J.	Stewart, William M.	Ulwick, William	Yarnish, Harold
Shahanian, Edward	Stoltz, Dewey A.	Urbaniak, Stanley A., Jr.	Young, Donald P.
Shahanian, John	Strickland, Albert G.		*Young, Edward L.
Shaheen, John	Strickland, Edward H.	VanTassell, Raymond	Young, George E.
Shanks, Charles E., Jr.	Strickland, William A.	Varnerin, Mario	Young, Howard A.
Shay, Philip J.	Stueber, Charles E.	Vaughn, Elmer J.	Young, John F.
Shea, Clifford H.	Stuber, Max F.	Vogel, Carl N.	Young, Ralph E.
Shea, Joseph C.	Stymest, James P.	Vogel, John A.	Young, Stanley
Shea, William V.	Stymest, Raymond C.		Young, William P.
Sheehy, John F.	Sullivan, Arthur J.	Wade, James	Young, Wilmer S.
Shore, George H.	Sullivan, David W.	Wade, John M.	Yundt, James R.
Silva, George J.	Sullivan, James L.	Wales, Frank G.	Yundt, William
Silva, John	Sullivan, John E.	Wales, Lawrence P.	Yurkus, Joseph P., Sr.
Simmons, George L.	Sullivan, John J.	Wallace, Norman A.	
Simmons, Howard H.	Sullivan, John P.	Wallin, Tage H. S.	Zecchini, Alfred L.
Simmons, Joseph E.	Sullivan, Joseph L.	Wallin, Tore F. B.	Zecchini, Arthur B.
Simmons, Walter E.	Sullivan, Linwood F.	Walsh, Albert E., Jr.	Zielfelder, Richard D.

\* "They have enriched the cause of freedom by their sacrifice."







